

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LX.]

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BIRTHS.

On 27th September, at Shanghai, the wife of HARRY E. GIBSON, of a son.

On 28th September, at Tientsin, the wife of GUY D. B. BIDWELL, of a daughter.

On 4th October, at No. 5, Victoria View, Kowloon, the wife of F. A. BROWN, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On 28th September, at Shanghai, CHARLES MARTIN JULIUS WULFF, to Mrs. MARIA GRANDON.

DEATHS.

On 28th September, at Shanghai, E. LEHMANN, of the Imperial Maritime Customs, aged 30 years.

On 28th September, at Shanghai, JANS CARL ROKENBERG SØRENSEN, third engineer of the Cable steamer Store Aordiske, aged 26 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The French Mail of the 2nd Sept. arrived, per the s.s. *Capri*, on the 5th inst.; and the English Mail of the 9th September arrived, per the s.s. *Coromandel*, on the 6th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A telephone system is being introduced into Canton by the Chinese officials.

A Shantaiwan report of two balloons carrying news into Port Arthur is regarded as balloonacy.

General Hasegawa, who was in Tokyo about a week ago, has been appointed to the command of the Japanese garrison in Corea.

The Japanese have released the crew of the s.s. *Georges*, captured by them a short time ago. The crew has left on board the s.s. *Peiping* to return to China.

A St. Petersburg report states that Commander Rudnieff, who commanded the *Variag* at Chemulpo, has suddenly become insane and has been confined in an asylum.

The Jews of Tientsin have bought a new piece of ground for a synagogue and cemetery. The present cemetery has been found too marshy: "the monuments are fallen down."

One hundred Chinese students, gathered from all the Provinces in the Empire, left Peking on September 26th for Japan, in order to enter the Military Academy at Tokyo as cadets.

A Greek named Vangelis was making himself a nuisance at Peking by his lawless treatment of the Chinese. He has been deported to Japan, where freebooters are more quickly dealt with.

Mr. W. M. Hewlett, who was a student in Peking during the troubles of 1900, has just returned from a year's leave at Home and has taken Mr. Fletcher's place as assistant at the British Consulate at Tientsin.

Prince Ching contradicts the rumour that there has been any talk of cutting off the queue, but the *Jiji* says the report was not circulated altogether outside, as it is known a censor did try to memorialize on the question.

A Shanghai jury, inquiring into the death of Hugh Gow, late second stoker on H.M.S. *Vestal*, found that he was accidentally drowned in the river there. A sampan coolie said he saw the man jump in the water. He was in a drunken state.

Prince Carl von Hohenzollern had an audience of, and tiffin with, the Emperor of Japan on September 26th. The Emperor returned his call next day. Count Arco-Valley, the German Minister, was giving a dinner in the Prince's honour.

The *Sinwenzao* states that Tengzhou (near Chefoo), Shantung province, is now suffering from an epidemic of small-pox, the principal victims being children, of whom it is alleged that only thirty-five to forty out of one hundred manage to survive the attack.

Admiral Bayle, the Commander of the French Fleet in the Far East, is offering a reward of \$5,000 for trustworthy information of the actual whereabouts of Commander de Cuverville, French Naval attaché in Port Arthur, who left that place on the 17th August last.

Washington wires 29th ult. that Mr. Conger has telegraphed that China has promised Americans and British shall have the preference if foreign capital is required for the extension of the Hankow railway to Chinkiang. Mr. Conger wishes to know soon if American capitalists care to embark in the enterprise.

The British destroyer *Chamois* has been sunk while executing her steam trials off the Ionian islands. All on board were saved. The *Chamois* was a destroyer of 300 tons displacement and 30.4 knots' speed, built by Palmer's Co. at Jarrow in 1896. She was commanded by Lieut. Sydney H. Tennyson.

The Chinese Resident in Tibet is urging the construction of a private telegraph line between Lhassa and Peking to avoid their messages having to pass through any foreign hands.

Sixty-five convicts belonging to the penitentiary of Pulo-Condor, off the coast of French Cochin-China, have made a desperate bid for liberty, says the *Petit Journal*. They were being conveyed to Co-ou in a sloop, when they suddenly rose in revolt and felled the steersman by a blow on the neck. The warders were thrown overboard, and when last seen the sloop was headed north-east.

The *China Review* learns "on very high authority" that H.E. Tong, the Tientsin Customs Taotai, has been ordered to Peking immediately, in order to receive instructions and thereafter proceed to Tibet at once for the Imperial Government, in consequence of the steps taken by the Russian Minister to point out many serious matters in connection with the recent treaty just signed by the Tibetan authorities and approved of by the Chinese Amban.

A dangerous pirate whom the Chinese authorities have been trying for a long time to get hold of has just been captured in Macao and handed over to the Canton authorities. He claims (!) to have killed about 200 people, including a whole company of soldiers to the number of 40 who had been sent to arrest him. He was taken while asleep by a Macao Government servant who had been sent to inspect the house which the pirate used as his headquarters. The name of the captor is Mr. J. F. Cidade, of the Macao Public Works, and he is entitled to a reward of \$20,000 offered by the Canton authorities for the capture of the desperado.

Russia is stubbornly opposing the attempt of England and the United States to curtail its privileges with regard to the restriction of trade with Japan. It declares that unless these two countries can be stopped from supplying the islanders with foodstuffs, railway materials, cartridges, powder and dynamite, Russia's chances of ultimate victory will be seriously compromised. It asserts that England and America have developed a contraband trade unprecedented in the history of war, and charges that the whole equipment of the Japanese reserves, 250,000 men, was smuggled from the United States. Hence Russia's extraordinary efforts to station commerce-raiders on all the shipping routes to the Far East.—*China Review*.

In Amoy a strange practice exists; the head paupers are paid every month by the native shops sums of money ranging from half a dollar to three dollars, and as there are over three thousand shops, it may be taken for granted that the amount thus obtained is very considerable. In return for this money, these paupers profess to protect the shops from molestation by the native disorderly elements. Realizing the evil of the practice, the native gentry are now desirous of appropriating the funds to organize a police force which will be far more efficient in maintaining peace and order, and the paupers will be put at the Industrial Institute, where they will be able to earn an honorable livelihood without creating any trouble with the protest that they have been robbed of their bread by the organization of a police force.—*Universal Gazette*.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(Daily Press, 1st October.)

We may congratulate the Hon. ROBERT SHEWAN on the ability which marked his criticism of the Colonial Estimates at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday, but at the same time express our regret that he should have treated nearly every point with a flippancy which might be suited to a debating club, but scarcely accords with the dignity of a Legislative Assembly. Mr. SHEWAN has it in his power to be of great service to the Colony in the position in which he has been placed by the Chamber of Commerce, but it scarcely needs to be said that if Mr. SHEWAN wishes to make that influence felt he must abandon his flippancy and treat public questions in a more serious and dignified manner. With most of his criticisms of the Budget we are more or less in agreement. Everybody, for instance, must recognise the amazing want of prescience which has been shown by the administration in the past with regard to the development of Hongkong, and it is well to constantly urge upon our legislators the necessity of looking into the future and making more allowance than has been done hitherto for the growth of this great port, which we may safely say has not yet by a long distance reached the limits of its possibilities.

With regard to the public works now in progress, it is impossible to make any weighty or fair criticism of the New Law Courts, and, as His Excellency the GOVERNOR rightly remarked, it would be better to defer criticism until the building is completed, or at least in a more advanced stage than it is at present. We do hope, however, that Mr. SHEWAN's remarks about pushing on with the work will be taken to heart, and we have faith that they will be, for His Excellency the GOVERNOR appears to be fully cognisant of the need of the building. The comments made concerning the deforestation commenced by the head of the Botanical Department—a new departure which has hardly been satisfactorily disavowed by the Government—were very much to the point, though, we say again, we think Mr. SHEWAN's remarks would have been better appreciated had they been less flippan. We must trust, however, to the Government's assurance that only a "thinning" of the forests will be effected and not their destruction. The idea of attempting to create a revenue from this source cannot be too strongly denounced, and we regard it as most unfortunate that the COLONIAL SECRETARY should ever for a moment have been induced to entertain such an idea. Coming to the references to expenditure on precautions against plague, figuring in the Budget at nearly half a million dollars, we could wish that the COLONIAL SECRETARY had a better defence to offer. "It seems a subject for reflection," said Mr. SHEWAN, "that in spite of our "expenditure and precautions and our "boasted Western medical science, the "plague should run its course here just "exactly as it does, neither sooner nor later, "in Canton, where nothing is done to con- "tend with it." Neither Mr. SHEWAN nor any other public man would be prepared to advocate a cessation of our precautions in the belief that we should suffer no more than if we continued with them; but we cannot, say in, the light of past experience that the reply of the COLONIAL SECRETARY conveys an assurance that we are getting value for our expenditure under this heading. We may be; no man can convincingly demonstrate that we are not,

but all Mr. MAY could tell us was that his information and the information of the Sanitary Board was to the effect that during the current year Hongkong has been conspicuous by its freedom from plague with plague all round it. We may remind the COLONIAL SECRETARY that there have been years when Hongkong has enjoyed even greater freedom from plague than it has this year, but he would be a bold man who would say the immunity we enjoyed in 1895 and 1897, and again in 1902, was directly attributable to the sanitary measures we adopted. Whether plague has been more or less prevalent in Canton this year than in other years we do not know. It forms no subject of report either to the local or the imperial authorities or to foreign governments, and the only statistical data that we have about the extent of the ravages of plague in Canton are the estimates of an American Missionary who after gathering information as to the number of coffins which passed through the city gates in 1896 and 1898 calculated that the mortality from plague in each of those years was somewhere in the neighbourhood of 40,000. If similar statistics are still collected it would be possible to form some idea of the relative prevalence of plague in Hongkong and Canton in any given year. What we should like to know is not whether plague has raged very severely in Canton, this year, but whether it has raged to a greater or less extent than last year. The inadequacy of the COLONIAL SECRETARY's reply will be obvious on a study of the following returns of plague mortality in Hongkong since 1894:—

Year.	Deaths.	Year.	Deaths.
1894	2,485	1900	1,086
1895	36	1901	1,837
1896	1,204	1902	540
1897	19	1903	1,400
1898	1,325	1904	500
1899	1,487		

A study of these returns does not tend to inspire us with confidence in the efficacy of the measures we adopted at great cost to the Colony to prevent a recurrence of these epidemics, but we find some consolation in the thought that but for the stringent sanitary measures we have adopted the infection would have strengthened its hold on the Colony and the yearly mortality be much greater than is actually the case. We cannot for a moment think of following the example of Canton in doing nothing to contend against the scourge, and so far for the present the only criticism of the item of plague expenditure that might with any profit be made is with regard to details, as, for instance, whether it is worth while paying medical men to do what is practically the work of senior sanitary inspectors.

There are just one or two other points in the speech of Mr. SHEWAN which call for brief comment. *Apropos* the hon. member's references to Pedder's Wharf and Blake Pier, it seems to us that they would have been more opportune at the time the change in nomenclature was made. It is too late, two or three years after the event, to begin to criticise, and in any case we cannot consider Mr. SHEWAN's remarks on the subject in good taste. The change of name might even be defended on the ground that the wharf was a wholly different one and placed in a different position at the end of a reclamation that did not exist when Pedder's Wharf was destroyed. We would fain add the hope that we have now heard the last of the differences between Mr. SHEWAN and Sir HENRY BLAKE. We think the correspondence that appeared in London papers from both was much to be regretted, for it reflected no credit on either, Sir HENRY

BLAKE's last letter in particular being a most unfortunate indiscretion which ought never to have been penned by a high Government official, no matter what the provocation may have been.

BRITISH SHIPPING AND CONTRABAND.

(Daily Press, 3rd October.)

We reproduced a week ago the verbatim report of a speech delivered by Mr. BALFOUR to a deputation representative of British shipowners who sought information as to the intentions of the Government with regard to the protection of British shipping during the continuance of the war between Russia and Japan. The speech, we fear, can have afforded small consolation to British shipowners and the mercantile community generally, except in so far that it effectually dissipated the idea that British ships are subjected to one law by the Russians and the shipping of other nationalities to a more lenient law. Adequate proof is certainly wanting for the maintenance of this idea up to the present. While ready to accept the brave words of the Prime Minister that the expressed determination of the Government to uphold the rights of neutral shipping was no empty phrase, the British public have not seen sufficient evidence of the intention to disabuse their minds of the idea that the dilatory, almost apathetic way in which the Government has dealt with cases of apparently indefensible assault and robbery on the part of Russia constitutes an exhibition of feebleness which is as lamentable as it is unparalleled. Some months ago the British Government declined to regard coal, foodstuffs and cotton as absolutely contraband of war, and telegraphically we have learnt within the past week that His Majesty's Government has re-asserted (in words only) that attitude, at least so far as coal is concerned. Consider this declaration in its relation to the circumstances connected with the confiscation of the British steamer *Allanton*. Prior to the outbreak of the war she was chartered to carry a cargo of coal from Cardiff to Hongkong or Sasebo. The cargo was discharged at the latter port after the outbreak of the war, and she was afterwards chartered to convey a cargo of coal from Muroran to Singapore, this being part of a cargo of 50,000 tons which a British firm at Singapore had agreed to buy for delivery during the present year. While on her voyage to Singapore the *Allanton* was overhauled by Russian warships, and owing to the alleged irregularity of her papers she was seized and taken to Vladivostock, where she was condemned a fortnight later on the untenable supposition that she was carrying contraband of war to a Japanese or Corean port. The Court reached this conclusion on evidence being tendered that the steamer set her course by the west of the Japanese Islands, "that is through the theatre of war," instead of going by the route east of Japan. It is to be assumed that the defendants pleaded (and had the Court afforded the facilities it could have been conclusively proved) that this western route is the one which is always followed by merchant vessels coming south from Japan, because it is 200 miles shorter, and also because an adverse current and numerous small islands are avoided thereby. A second reason for the Court's finding consists in the statement that the steamer had a Japanese cabin boy on board! Thirdly, the decision was based on the fact that the official log-book had not been entered up since the steamer left Hongkong, her last neutral port. To this

the owner replies that entries are only made in the log-book on occasions required by the Board of Trade, such as logging a deserter and the like. Most extraordinary of all is the further reason given by the Court for its finding, viz., "that the vessel had carried contraband on her outward voyage." The British Foreign Office was supplied by the owner of the ship with conclusive evidence that the destination of the ship and her cargo was Singapore. A copy of the bill of lading and charter-party were amongst the ship's papers examined by the Prize Court, and despite this testimony the ship within a fortnight of her seizure was condemned. We are face to face therefore with the fact that, ignoring the indefensible excuse that the ship was taking the western rather than the seldom-used eastern route, the Prize Court, notwithstanding the British protest against coal being declared under all circumstances contraband of war, confiscates ship and cargo, and moreover advanced the unprecedented claim that the ship having previously carried coal to the enemy's country justifies her condemnation.

Holding such views as it has repeatedly declared on the subject of contraband, one would naturally think this a case in which the Government would have been quick to take action. It is almost incredible to find that down to the 16th of August the British Foreign Office had not become "officially aware" that the fact of the vessel having carried coal on the outward voyage was considered by the Prize Court (on June 27th) to constitute one of the grounds for her condemnation. The owner of the ship had long before made the newspaper reading public aware of the fact, and he seems to have kept the Foreign Office well posted with all information relating to the case. Moreover, on July 27th the British Minister at St. Petersburg communicated to the Foreign Office the fact that he had received "a note from the Russian Government stating that the *Allanton* was condemned for carrying a full cargo of contraband to the enemy and for the undoubted active participation of the owner of the vessel in the conveyance by steamer of contraband." This statement, it will be seen, is based solely on the facts that before the outbreak of war the steamer left England with a cargo of coal which was delivered in Japan after the war had commenced, and that when captured she was carrying a cargo of coal to a British firm at Singapore. The Foreign Office with the whole of the facts in its possession had done nothing in the matter down to the end of August, not even so much as telegraphed for that official knowledge which it lacked of a decision rendered on June 27th involving a grievous loss to one British shipowner and disturbance and loss of a less direct character to the whole shipping industry of Great Britain. It must therefore be allowed that there is ample excuse for the indignation of British shipowners when they see such indifference to vital interests as the Government has shown in this case of the *Allanton*, to say nothing of the case of the *Knight Commander* and that of the *Calchas*. The result of the supineness of the Government is seen in the fact that underwriters have in some cases been charging four times more for war risks on goods to Japan under the British flag than if under the French or German flag, and consequently British shippers have been diverting all the goods they can from British steamers to French and German British trade to Singapore, Hongkong, and Shanghai, and not only to Japan, is being harassed, penalised and disorganized, so the merchants at Home declare, by the obvious

contempt of Russia for the British flag. A "plain business man" writes to the *Times* saying: "I make no pretence to a knowledge of the refinements of diplomacy. I only know that like thousands of other business men in Great Britain just now, I am being robbed and plundered, and that if the refinements of diplomacy, backed up by the strongest Fleet in the world, cannot put a stop to that, then 'the time has come for plain speaking and prompt action.' There has been plenty of plain speaking by shipowners and business men in the columns of the *Times*, and other organs of public opinion, and we have no doubt that the Russian Commission on contraband questions of which we have recently heard something by telegraph is one of the results; but the decisions of this commission would appear only to have increased the difficulties, and British shipowners have still to wait for the guarantees and protection they seek.

FLIPPANCY.

(*Daily Press*, 4th October.)

The gentleman whose letter appears in a neighbouring column, over the pen name of "Scotland for Ever," has demonstrated, so far as we are concerned, that if it does require a sledgehammer to get a joke into a Caledonian skull, it certainly does not need a can opener to get one out. Our correspondent, so far from joking "wi' deeficulty," betrays a subtlety of humour, and a "by ordinuar" finesse of jocularity, when he has to chuckle in parenthesis as he pens the word "opinions" as a sort of makeshift title for the remarks that appear in this particular column of the paper. The delicate *suspicion* of sarcasm (bracketted) seems to have set in motion some internal catch-natory mechanism, like merry bells jangling out of tune, so that we picture him laying down his pen to laugh uninterruptedly at this *bon mot* which had, as it were, slipped out and surprised its author into a fit of self-gratulatory giggling. On no other supposition can we explain how he came to disagree with our opinion of the Hon. R. SHEWAN's speech "on these grounds," i.e., that our comments are usually interesting, powerful, facile, palatable, and easily digested! [To retrieve our reputation for modesty, we must point out that those are the qualities defined in the letter, and cited as grounds for disagreeing with us.] However, on the question raised by our correspondent, we do think the manner of presenting the facts does matter. He pleads for flippancy, but what he means to defend is satire, sarcasm, and the like. In a case like his own (attacking a perhaps too puerile criticism) ridicule, satire, even flippancy, are often the most effective weapons. In striving for grave matters, like the welfare of a city, and the removal of serious impediments to its progress, such methods are either edged tools (in the sense that they cut only the user) or very blunt ones (in the sense that they cut nothing.)

Let us suppose that "Scotland for Ever" is arraigned before the Supreme Court on a capital charge. (As he would say—"be careful, we are only supposing.") Suppose, moreover, that he has retained the Hon. Mr. SHEWAN as advocate to plead for his life. Then suppose that the prisoner's counsel begins to cause "roars of laughter in Court," by citing *Bardell v. Pickwick*, by suggesting that His Lordship the Judge should sit on thistles in order to enter into the feelings of "Scotland for Ever," and interpolating the "meaningless word 'Rats!'" when the black cap comes to be donned. Is our

correspondent still going to maintain that the method of presenting a case is immaterial? We imagine that he would be somewhat grateful to any newspaper commenting that his case had not received proper treatment. At all events, he would be unlikely to repeat his present blunder of regarding a flippant speech as a "preventative" of evil humours already collected.

POKER.

(*Daily Press*, 4th October.)

The game of poker has been acquiring extraordinary popularity at Hongkong, and we have repeatedly heard of high play among young men who cannot be said to claim similar intimacy with high pay. The other day, at a sitting of the Supreme Court (our report of it being unwarrantably withheld by the reporter) there was heard a case directly arising from that seductive and mind-obscuring game of cards. We would like to think that the statement of the mess into which it apparently put the defendant would give pause to the numbers of young men who are even now being led into a ruinous pastime for the pursuit of which are needed more money and more strength of mind than many of them possess. Owing to visits paid by both young men in the case, anxious to persuade us to withhold their names from the public, we have acquired a fairly reliable idea of the circumstances of this particular case. The defendant was admittedly a tyro at the game. The plaintiff based his application for suppression on the generous plea that publication would seriously damage the professional career of his late opponent. The sincerity of this representation we do not specifically impugn; but we would like him to conquer his egoism long enough to try to see himself as others must see him in this unhappy incident. We have never previously heard of a gentleman suing for such a debt; nor, for that matter, permitting himself to be sued. We took the liberty of asking the defendant why he allowed such an ignominious suit to go to Court, and gathered that he was persuaded thereto by friends. The advice of friends is, unfortunately, not always the advice we should take. The defendant would have done better to pay what was asked, and afterwards to have cut the plaintiff. Also (as we hope he will now) he should have made up his mind to eschew poker in favour of some game less exigent. We do not think we are far misled in our conclusion that in this case the successful litigant makes a poorer showing than the one who lost. It was deposed that he "generally won," and he himself stated that he stood creditor to other victims for considerable amounts. It is also on record that His Honour Mr. SEECOMBE SMITH had to request him to "behave as a gentleman" in the Court. The amounts mentioned in the course of the case show that the stakes played for were much too high for young men of their financial means. Although the Judge was obliged to give a verdict on the evidence, there being an acknowledgement that there was "value received," the debt would obviously not have been contracted except at the card table. When such documents become necessary, poker is no longer an exciting pastime; it becomes a business, and a shady one at that. The young man about to "learn" poker should therefore cast out his mental view of potential winnings, and set himself to realise what he "stands to lose." It appears that, even in Hongkong, it is possible to lose more than money. *Verba sap.*

CHINA AND TIBET.

(Daily Press, 5th October.)

In returning to the subject of our own affair with the Tibetans, there is no necessity for devoting much consideration to the statements that China at the last moment made a futile attempt to prevent the signing of the treaty. The allegation that the AMBAN was telegraphically ordered, from Peking, to oppose the settlement has since been contradicted by the Waiwupu, that enlightened corporation which has to do with foreigners and foreign affairs, and which is rapidly acquiring a knack of doing them. It was only to be expected, assuming such an attempt were made, and proved abortive, that the Waiwupu would deny the whole thing. That is to "save face," and since our recognition of China in the matter at all may have been prompted by a similar care for appearances, we need not be too severe. If the incident is of sufficient importance to call for an opinion, we should incline to the view that there was such an attempt made to intervene, and to open up a course of that haggling over terms and phrases that is so dear to the Chinese heart. There was sufficient evidence in the Blue Book on the affairs relating to Tibet to warrant more than a suspicion of China's absolute sincerity in the preliminary negotiations. It was evident that China not only lacked the power and influence in that far corner of Asia to render adequate support to our just claims, but that she lacked as well the hearty goodwill that we had every right to look for. Since our Government was compelled to abandon the roundabout procedure *via* Peking, and to approach the fountain-head, there has been a very noticeable disturbance in Mandarin circles. Our contemporary the *Peking Times* has referred to it in this way: "There is a flutter in Peking now over the Tibet Treaty, and the Chinese Government are attempting to make out that England has in some way defrauded China and stolen Tibet from her. China will have precisely the same power there now as formerly—i.e. nil." In addition to that suggestion of a "flutter," we have heard that Prince CH'ING and a strong section of the Waiwupu were most jealous of our apparent success where they had failed. It is disappointing to find that in spite of experience the Chinese in high places should continue to betray such ignorance of our methods. Had it been some other Powers in like case, it is questionable if China's rights in the matter would have been so scrupulously regarded. Our own fear is that we have been too squeamish altogether; and that once in Lhassa we should have taken a hint from the historical Scotch assassin who returned to "mak' siccar." It was pleasant to read in the despatch we published on Monday morning of the release of the DALAI LAMA's political prisoners; but with all credit to the humanity of the writer of it, we are not disposed to admit that "the restitution to liberty of these wretched men is in itself sufficient to justify our advance to Lhassa." Nor are we so certain as we would like to be that the signing of the treaty will prove a sufficient satisfaction for the lives and money expended in its obtentioiu. It was because of persistent breaches of a treaty previously signed that the expedition went to Lhassa at all; and it is just possible that the Tibetans, who are, on the authority of the Chinese AMBAN himself, incredibly obstinate, treacherous, and stupid, regard the new treaty merely as a ready and cheap means of getting rid of the obnoxious and simple-minded intruders. We read that after the settlement, "the Shapés lingered

in the hall laughing and chatting, their geniality and cheerfulness being in marked contrast with the sullen manner in which they had expostulated with us on the road. Such behaviour, of course, is just as plausibly accounted for by suggesting that they were genially "speeding the parting guest," and laughing because he had asked so little. He took no money: only a chit—and in the case of the Lamas there is something parallel to that of the chit-signer who said "Thank goodness. That's paid." That they were surprised at the simplicity of the settlement is proved by Reuter's report, that they thanked our representatives for not doing to the shrines what they, in our shoes, would undoubtedly have done. We have no pleasure in thus acting the part of a "we blank t" to the rejoicing at Home; but we shall be as much surprised as relieved if the events of the next twelve months do not require a return visit of our troops to the mountain fastnesses of the treaty-breakers.

RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

(Daily Press, 6th October.)

Recently the *Times* has been taken to task for having stated that there exists an understanding between Germany and Russia with regard to the proceedings of the latter in Asia. Of course if this is to be taken as meaning that a regular plan of operations has been formally drawn up, and is to be found in the archives of the Foreign Offices in Berlin and St. Petersburg, the *Times* is egregiously in the wrong, and the Press of Germany is quite justified in its indignant repudiation of the suggestion even. This does not, however, touch the pith of the matter, nor in any way invalidate the statement of the English paper. The curious tie that connects the royal house of Prussia with the Tsar is of far older growth, and was already in existence in the eighteenth century. In 1786 FREDERICK WILLIAM II ascended the throne of Prussia. One of the greatest, and without exception the most unscrupulous of her sovereigns, the Empress CATHERINE II. was then on the throne of Russia, and was arranging the plot for the great drama—The Partition of Poland. FREDERICK WILLIAM offered his services, and became understudy. The play was not finally put on the stage till 1793, but had a successful run, and for his part of the profits FREDERICK WILLIAM got a little estate of some 16,000 square miles, the heroine taking for her share some 72,000. On a readjustment after the treaty of Tilsit Russia and Prussia had to disgorge some of this territory, which was formed into the so-called Grand Duchy of Warsaw; after many vicissitudes, nearly the whole of this went back to Russia under a mock constitution. The usual thing happened, and in 1831 the TSAR NICOLAS I. finally extinguished the last trace of Poland as a separate State.

Although Germany as the successor of Prussia has never succeeded in getting possession of the whole of the estate promised in her first title deed, she placed herself so unreservedly in the hands of Russia from the very first that she never has had the opportunity of protesting; and Russia, on her side, has never failed to unpleasantly jog her memory and remind her of the conditions whenever she showed any symptoms of squirming. Germany is in fact very much in the position of Faust after he had sold his soul to the Devil. She would like to be free, and loudly proclaims to the world her freedom. But talk, even of the most avuncled kind, is one thing: action is quite a different; and the moment Germany attempts to put her thoughts into

leads, a very unpleasant reminder of the past in the shape of a grin and a shake of the chain appears in the near distance. It is true the influence at present is but moral; but to a mind brought up in the narrow grooves of tradition, as has been the case with the German Emperor, this means the most intense bondage of all. This tradition implies the seniority of Russia in what may be regarded as a family compact; and under the peculiar conditions of the two States this causes, and has always caused, a public langer, and none the less so that it is unwritten. Lately it is true the German Emperor has not proclaimed so openly the doctrine of a divine right, but the doctrine is there all the same. This of course means that the personal rights of the sovereign are in all cases where they come in contact with the interests of the State to be considered paramount. In Russia these rights are more than a theory, and constitute the fundamental law of the Empire. It was in pursuance of this law that after the close of the French revolutionary wars was founded the so-called Holy Alliance, and in accordance with it Russia took upon herself, after the troubles between Austria and the Hungarian people had broken out in open warfare, to send an army across the frontier. The result was the restoration of Austrian supremacy, but affairs were thrown into such confusion that the Emperor FREDERICK had to resign, and the present ruler, FRANCIS JOSEPH, was called to the dangerous throne. Reforms too were attempted, but were frowned down by Prussia and Russia, and the young Emperor had to give way and reintroduce the policy of the curb and bridle. So things went on till Italy, headed by the House of Savoy, began to move, and France threw in her aid. Then the Austrian Emperor was left free to return to his first love, and make friends with his people.

This line of conduct never met the approval of the other two members of the Family, who, however, not immediately able to strike, had to content themselves with growls of disapproval till BISMARCK came to the front. A man of action, he set himself from the beginning to humble recalcitrant Austria, and bind Prussia still more tightly to Russia and Russian ways. But he did more; and while ostensibly making an alliance with Austria to defend western Europe against the advances of Russia, was secretly planning with that Power the partition of his ally in punishment of the part she had taken in recognising the nationality of Hungary.

When after the surrender of Paris the House of Hohenzollern succeeded to the German Empire, another object of ambition was unfolded which ran on all fours with the former, and that was the formation of a "Pan-German" State to be composed, in addition to the present German Empire, of the German provinces of Austria, and the partly Germanic peoples about the head of the Adriatic. Germany was to stretch from the Baltic to the Adriatic, and thus hold the key to the entire of Europe. To do this it was of course essential to keep close to Russia and the old family understanding; and what is of even greater importance, to ensure Russia beforehand of her share of the swag. Russia is not a nation to act for philanthropic or even friendly ends without payment, and having a greed for land without much question as to its condition, provided only it is capable of being represented on a map, the thing was easily settled. Russia has evidently claimed as her own Hungary, and all the parts of Austria which can lay claim to Slavonic blood in their populations. Probably she would like to have Posen—and herein lies the rub—to

round off her territory East and West Prussia and a slice of Pomerania. These are the things that often make the head of the Hohenzollerns wear and anxious. But suggests the other, "there's the bargain; you have had the good things, but to obtain them you have sold your soul, and the soul is mine, and mine I intend to keep it, both in this world and the next."

Now, as we said above, these things are not to be found written in the records of any Foreign Office. They are far too sacred for that. They are like old world traditions in an ancient Scotch family—handed down from father to son, and yet never talked about nor alluded to, and all the while felt and acted upon by every gilly on the estate. We know what a MACLEAN or a MACGREGOR will do when called upon in the hour of need to fight the battles of his country; he does as the tradition of his clan has taught him, and dare not do otherwise. It is a tradition of the same sort that drives together, often sadly against their wills, the two houses, however unlike, of HOHENZOLLERN and ROMANOFF, and the careful political on-looker can often forecast more readily than the actor himself their conduct in any emergency. There is no love, we may be assured, between the two very different types of manhood represented by a WILLIAM II. and a NICOLAS II. respectively; yet a fate and a tradition stronger than the will of either compels them to act in ways and for purposes which one or other regards with feelings of dislike almost approaching to nausea.

CHINESE CURRENCY.

(*Daily Press*, 7th October.)

The suggestion offered by the President of the Board of Commerce at Peking for the appointment of directors or superintendents of commercial affairs in the various provinces of the Empire, as delegates of the Board, in order that they may exert themselves on behalf of the native merchants is a good one, no doubt, so far as it goes. But when the President makes it apparent that his action is the result of an idea that the promotion of commerce is necessary "to save China from poverty and dismemberment by the greedy foreign Powers" he is rather wandering from the point. The promotion of commerce will not necessarily save China from dismemberment by the "greedy foreign Powers"; it might even add to the temptations to a policy of tutelage and annexation. The President of the Board, however, thinks the Empire is in a parlous state, and that it is due greatly to the "greedy foreign Powers." Unlike most of his countrymen, he is of opinion that something should be done to alter this condition of affairs, for he says:—"Unless something is soon done for its salvation, it will be too late, because the country will be gradually drained of its silver, not only by the various old and new war indemnities and loans, but by its want of trade." He suggests that the delegates he proposes should be instructed to consult the leading merchants as to the establishment of chambers of commerce and that young men should be sent abroad to study modern commercial methods. The President concludes by the expression of a belief that in course of time and under protection Chinese merchants will be able to compete fairly with foreign merchants.

Now it is very evident that the worthy President of the Board of Commerce has quite misunderstood the position. It is not that trade is so bad or that the Chinese merchants are so incompetent. It is true that, owing to the disordered political situation

ensuing on the Russo-Japanese War, many branches of trade have been adversely affected, that money is tight, and that merchants are shy of indulging in any dubious-looking speculation, preferring safety to precarious profits. At the same time there would be a fair trade passing if more confidence were felt in the stability of the Chinese Government and the maintenance of a good rate of exchange. But there is still a good deal of unrest in the interior; the ghost of the Boxer outbreak has never yet been satisfactorily laid; and the conditions of many of the railway and most of the mining concessions have yet to be satisfactorily settled. The Chinese officials have not realised that until the disaffected have been pacified or repressed, and the banditti that keep many districts in a condition of terror and uncertainty have been hunted down and suppressed, the country cannot prosper and its trade cannot revive. The Chinese merchants have not much to learn. They are sufficiently wide-awake to their own interests to take hints from foreign merchants and their methods, and they are quite capable of holding their own with all and sundry. By all means, however, let the Chinese Government appoint delegates to study the conditions of trade; they are sure to acquire much useful knowledge; but let them not suppose that such a course will neutralise the evils which a debased currency or want of currency has brought upon the country.

The remedy for the drain upon China's resources which has followed the depreciation of silver is clear and obvious to the meanest intelligence, and none but those who are her enemies at the gate would attempt to delude her rulers on the subject. The losses she has suffered by having to pay her indemnities and repay her loans in gold are patent to all. There is but one method by which she can obtain relief from the present situation, and this has been distinctly pointed out to the Waiwupu by Professor JENKS. It is by the establishment of a national currency on a gold standard. The coinage would be silver, but the standard would be gold. Japan has already established her currency on this basis and with entirely satisfactory results. The prophecies of the pessimists have been completely falsified in her case. Her trade has increased instead of diminished. There have been no financial troubles, no falling off in exports, no difficulty with regard to imports. It is argued, of course, by the advocates of silver in China that the conditions are different, and that what was good for the land of the Rising Sun would not be healthy for the Celestial Empire. The latter must remain a dumping ground for silver, or how can they continue to make enormous profits by exchange? Moreover, China has no gold, and without gold how can a country have a gold standard? Japan had no gold, but she has managed to maintain her credit and her trade. Oh, but Japan is different, we are told. She has credit and she has resources. This is all mere begging of the question, we take leave to say. It is true China has no gold, but she would require little for the purpose, and she certainly has resources, even greater resources than Japan could ever lay claim to, and if the currency were only organised and established under the able direction of Sir ROBERT HART there would be no question about its stability. Difficulties there are undoubtedly, but they are none of them insuperable, nor would they take long to surmount. No great change in a national system was ever effected without trouble and some amount of opposition; but in this instance it is so palpably to the interest of

the Chinese people as well as that of the Government that the opposition would be slight, and the difficulties would quickly melt when the project was ready for launching. We entertain sanguine hopes that, if the Chinese Government receives the support and sympathy to which it is entitled from the Treaty Powers, this great and beneficial change will be easily and satisfactorily accomplished.

LAUNCH TRAFFIC.

(*Daily Press*, 7th October.)

The step taken by His Excellency the GOVERNOR in cancelling the licences of the launches *Kong Soo* and *Lee Ching* as a punishment for repeatedly carrying an excess of passengers is not only a substantial act of justice but also a measure of much-needed protection to passengers. These launches travel, the first on the West River, and the second between Hongkong and the New Territory, and they had been several times convicted of carrying a larger number of passengers than allowed by licence and fined for the offence. But, like most of the Chinese engaged in the carrying trade, they were quite indifferent to fines, which they promptly proceeded to recoup by repeating the offence. The practice is one that must, as far as possible, be suppressed. It works unfairly against legitimate trade, and, what is of still greater importance, it endangers the safety of passengers. In dealing with Chinese it has to be remembered that they are absolutely insensible to any idea of risk or wrong-doing in the matter. A Chinese ship or launch owner will take in passengers just so long as the vessel will float on the water. That is the only limit to their greed, and it is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the law should step in and prescribe the number of passengers per ton that can with safety be carried. If the provisions of the ordinance are broken, it is the bounden duty of the law not only to punish the offender but also to see that he does not repeat the offence. A mere fine has, we have seen, proved no deterrent, and it is necessary therefore to take some action that will not only vindicate the majesty of the law but will serve to warn other shipowners that the regulations imposed by the Government must be respected and complied with. The Harbour Master recognised this fact, and recommended the course adopted by the Governor. It is eminently satisfactory to find that the new Administration is resolved to compel that respect for the law with which its provisions become a dead letter and the Chinese are encouraged to presume upon leniency. The course taken is the one best calculated to ensure obedience in the future. The Chinese have no respect for those who allow the law to be violated with impunity, and better appreciate a firmness that insists upon obedience.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(3rd October.)

How often have the unofficial members of the Legislative Council been taxed with timidity, supineness, *et cetera*, and adjured to speak up and prove that they were not ornamental dummies sitting there to give a semblance of popular support to all official doings and misdoings? Now, when the Hon. R. Shewan has flung himself into the breach, like a sarcastic Berserker, and startled them that sit in darkness with a few vivid flashes of popular feeling, we are not satisfied. We are high-toned in Hongkong, and Mr. Shewan's cue should have been Japanesey, like this: Deign to honourably excuse such a despicable comment, which is expressed by desire of an unworthy community, but when the Deforestation Department put

their heads together over this knotty timber question they were not in a position to see wood for trees. Because he let his sense of humour get the upper hand, this oratorical Ajax drew down upon himself, not only the official lightnings, but the chilly displeasure of those whose cause he championed. I feel sorry for him, for his only sin was that he didn't copy Dogberry, and regard the Legislative Assembly as a Public Dissembly.

Now, dropping the criticism, let us look at the reply. If the Hon. R. Shewan's attack on officialdom was not well done, officialdom's reply was no better. Evidently the Colonial Secretary was caught off his guard. All the time, it must be understood, I am confining myself to the parts of the discussion relative to the Deforestation Department's labour of love. The Colonial Secretary's reply on this head was one of the most vulnerable official rejoinders I have ever come across. Following up the persistent plan of evading the issue, the Hon. F. H. May opened his mouth and was safely delivered of a pseudo-epigrammatic generality. It was an observation so remarkable that I must begin a new paragraph with it.

"It is," he said, "one more example of the innate aversion Englishmen have to anything connected with science. They do things in a bull-dog sort of way; but do them in a scientific way, and they seem to have no appreciation whatever." I like that. Fancy the Secretary of a British Crown Colony officially describing his nationals as unscientific bull-dogs. But has the Englishman an innate aversion to anything connected with science? If there is a more positivistic race than ours, which is it? Isn't it data that he always clamours for, measures, and details, and figures, and facts? A wise and witty Continental has said that "the Englishman accepts a fit of delirium if it appears with footnotes, and is conquered by an absurdity if it be accompanied by diagrams." Even that sounds more apt than the Colonial Secretary's dictum.

The Colonial Secretary is an Englishman—no, an Irishman—and he has evidently been "conquered by an absurdity" disguised by a scientific shibboleth. Is there anything scientific about a sawyer? How is tree-cutting connected with science? It is that blessed word "expert" which has subdued the official mind. It seems somehow sacrilegious to contradict an Expert. Yet I believe when the lawyers want them, they can always find experts for both sides of a case, who will contradict each other with the greatest pleasure in the world. There is science and science. The "muddied oaf" prates of it. There is "science" in the "art" of self-defence and eye-blacking. There is "scientific dressmaking." But if there is such a thing as a scientific sawyer, he doesn't stop Hongkong or Aberdeen side. They haven't got the hot platinum wire to work at the B. & A. Department yet.

It's a little too cheap, this talk about experts and science. It takes some experience and training to make trees grow; but even the notorious little American child with the impediment in his taradiddum could chop them down. This reference to George Washington reminds me of the Governor's share in the discussion. His Excellency claimed the responsibility for the Philistinism, and his reason was a chivalrous one; but while I like the national esprit which made him say: "Easy there on my subordinates—I am the one to blame" (for that is what his reply amounted to), I am not going to let him do the Quintus Curtius act without a protest. The sorry business began before His Excellency saw Hongkong, by some Jack Horner who probably thought to "pull out a plum" for the exchequer, and then say "what a good boy am I." The little bid for kudos has missed fire. Instead of putting in his thumb, John Horner has put his foot in it.

If the Afforestation Department was started at Hongkong chiefly for aesthetic reasons, there is no excuse, scientific or otherwise, for its recent lapse into money-grabbing. If, on the contrary, its legitimate business is the growing of timber for profit, then it must suffer greater

aspersions still, for with all its expertise and science it hasn't yet made half a beginning on proper business lines. If it is going in for selling firewood, it has so far laid in a very small stock. There is ample room for more to grow. The estimates show that something more than a mere "thinning" is contemplated.

When His Excellency the Governor has had time to take his bearings, as the nautical man would say, I believe the ladies of Hongkong are resolved to again petition the Government to institute a system of registration for domestic servants. This subject can no more be kept out of Hongkong politics than King Charles' head could be suppressed in the narratives of Mr. Dick, unless in some miraculous way an adequate supply of honest and efficient domestic servants can be secured to the Colony. Up to the time of the rejection of the last petition I had imagined that Hongkong's sorrows were unique, but I have since seen that people suffer from bad and dishonest servants in several towns in India and seek protection by the same means. A petition is even now being circulated for signature in Singapore. So far, Ceylon enjoys the happy distinction of being the only place in Asia under British rule where a registration system for domestic servants is in operation. It is obvious that the need is much greater here than there, and the police reports of the last few years supply effective argument in support of such a demand upon the Government as the ladies of the Colony have made and are prepared to make again. The topic reminds me of an incident which came under my notice a few days ago. A lady dissatisfied with a newly engaged "boy" asked the cook to find a "more better" specimen of the genus. After some days the cook came to say he could find no "boys" that he believed to be honest who were wanting "pidgin." He apparently knew many of the other sort, but wisely declined to accept responsibility for them. This lady like many others in the Colony has for the present to console herself with the reflection that it is better to have a fool than a rogue in the house.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 6th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCE THE GOVERNOR, SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

HON. COLONEL L. F. BROWN (Commanding the Troops).

HON. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

HON. E. H. SHARP, K.C. (Attorney-General).

HON. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

HON. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

HON. SIR C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

HON. DR. HO KAI, C.M.G.

HON. WEI A YUK.

HON. R. SHEWAN.

HON. GERSHOM STEWART.

HON. W. J. GRESSON.

MR. S. B. C. ROSS (Clerk of Councils).

STANDING COMMITTEES.

HIS EXCELLENCE—In accordance with standing order No. 47, I appoint the following committees:—Finance Committee—all the members of the Council with the hon. Colonial Secretary chairman. Law Committee—The hon. Attorney-General as chairman and the hon. Harbour Master, hon. Dr. Ho Kai, hon. Mr. Shewan and hon. Mr. Wei Yuk as members. Public Works Committee—The hon. Director of Public Works as chairman and the hon. Colonial Treasurer, hon. Sir Paul Chater, hon. Mr. Gresson and hon. Mr. Stewart as members.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 11) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

CHINESE EMIGRATION.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Chinese Emigration Ordinance, 1889.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The objects and reasons annexed to the Bill were as follows:—The object of this measure is to effect proper arrangements for the transport of indentured Chinese emigrants from Hongkong to the British Colonies and Protectorates in South Africa, and to ensure that the requirements of the recent Convention between the United Kingdom and China respecting the employment of Chinese labour in British Colonies and Protectorates shall be (in so far as they are not already) observed by all ships engaged in such transport.

APPROPRIATION 1905.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Council resolve itself into Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Five million eight hundred and thirty-five thousand four hundred and seventy Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1905.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill and considered it clause by clause without amendment.

On the Council resuming.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said—Your Excellency.—Seeing that no amendment has been made, and if no member of Council objects, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCE moved that the Bill be passed and become law.

The motion was agreed to.

The Council adjourned.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 4th instant in the Board Room. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. P. N. H. Jones, Hon. A. W. Brewin, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Major Josling, R.A.M.C., Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. H. E. Pollock, Dr. W. W. Pearse, Dr. P. Barnett, and Mr. T. H. Hanmer (secretary).

ANTHEAX AT KENNEDY TOWN.

There was laid on the table a report concerning a case of antiseptic at Kennedy Town by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. It was not read.

FUMIGATING APPARATUS.

Correspondence relative to the Clayton fumigating apparatus was laid on the table.

Dr. Pearse, reporting on the matter, wrote that on the whole he was in favour of adopting the Clayton process for use in the Harbour, as the weight of evidence was much in favour of its usefulness as a prophylactic measure. He was not, however, as yet convinced that its sphere of usefulness could be extended to the general disinfection of Chinese houses in Hongkong.

Mr. Hewett minuted:—The committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which includes representatives of almost all the British and German shipping visiting Hongkong, have informed the Government that they are opposed to the introduction of such an apparatus, as in their opinion it cannot with safety be used on a vessel unless there is no cargo on board. The report attached shows that serious damage might be caused not only to the paint and fittings of a vessel, but also to many classes of cargo on board. The Acting M.O.H. states in his opinion it is impossible to properly close Chinese houses for the purpose of fumigation. With all due deference to this official, I would state that with all passenger steamers greater difficulty would be experienced, and some passenger ships are so constructed that it would be an absolute impossibility to close the passenger accommodation sufficiently to kill rats, etc., by gas.

The PRESIDENT thought they must wait for further information with reference to the merits of this process. The Secretary of State said in his letter that the information presently obtained did not warrant a definite conclusion

being arrived at in favour of the process. Personally he was of opinion that it was a very effective measure as a plague preventive, but he did not think the time had arrived for the Board to make a recommendation for its use generally on ships in the Harbour.

Mr. HEWETT stated that he had intended to make a few remarks on the subject, but in view of what the President had said he would defer them till a more suitable time. He understood the question had been raised with a view of adopting the Paris Convention as opposed to the Venice Convention with regard to the treatment of ships. A letter from the Colonial Secretary would be considered at a meeting of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce to-morrow (Wednesday) with reference to the Paris Convention.

The PRESIDENT remarked that that matter had not been referred to the Board.

AN APPLICATION.

Application was made to erect a water-closet and one dry closet on Inland Lot No. 7, in Stanley Street.

The Sanitary Surveyor (Mr. H. T. Jackman) reported that the position of the yard where it was proposed to erect the closets, being as it was enclosed all round, almost compelled the use of water-closets in preference to privies. The property abutted on Queen's Road Central and Stanley Street. The capacity of the water tank, 300 gallons, was ample, especially as it would be supplied from a well. The existing drain underneath would be examined before connection was made.

Dr. Pearse minuted that he was not in favour of the multiplication of water-closets in the Colony. Blocks of offices, hotels and clubs were, he thought, the only places where the Board had decided to consider the question of permission of water-closets. He considered that properly managed dry privies were safer than water-closets. In any case the patterns for the closets ought to be submitted for approval.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted:—I do not see why water-closets should only be confined to blocks of offices, hotels and clubs. They are decidedly an improvement on our present pail system. If an independent supply can be provided for flushing them I do not see why we should refuse any application. The applicant does not state where the supply of water is to come from.

Mr. Hewett—Refuse.

The PRESIDENT explained that the necessary water was obtained from a well on the premises which were still occupied by Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co. Seven Europeans lived there, also Chinese. He thought that water-closets were very much more sanitary than privies provided they could get a water supply other than the public water supply.

Mr. HEWETT said it seemed to him, in view of the general principle laid down by the Board, they should be very careful in considering this proposal. If they agreed to this building being fitted with water-closets there was no reason why they should not agree to water-closets being allowed in any Chinese shop or factory in the town. This was not a water-closet for a few Europeans in a hotel, office or club, but it was a proposal to start a new departure—to put water-closets in a building which was mainly used by Chinese.

Mr. RUMJAHN held that water-closets were far more preferable to the present system, and more sanitary.

Mr. PEARSE proceeded to make a statement on the matter, saying that although the introduction of water-closets in England had been followed by a reduction of the death-rate from typhoid fever which result had been due not so much to the water system of sewage as to the doing away of leaking underground cesspools liable to contaminate the water supply, he did not think the time had come in Hongkong for the introduction of water-closets, and he was not in favour of supplying them to the Chinese generally.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK said that in this case the water-closets would be used by the Europeans alone.

Mr. HEWETT remarked that he would not oppose the application if it was for the use of Europeans only.

The PRESIDENT stated that as this building did not come within the category of buildings in which the committee of the

Board had decided that there could be water-closets placed he moved that the application be refused.

Mr. HEWETT seconded, and the motion was adopted.

CRICKET CLUB PAVILION.

Application was made for permission to erect a water-closet and two urinals at the new Cricket Club pavilion.

Mr. Hewett minuted:—Where does the water come from? Grant, if a well can be provided.

The CHAIRMAN, remarking that the water was to be got by sinking a well, moved that the application be granted.

Mr. HEWETT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Mr. A. C. Franklin, Government Analyst, reported that his analysis for September showed the public water supplies to have been of excellent quality.

This was all the business of public importance before the meeting.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 3rd October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S POWERS.

In delivering judgment in actions Nos. 1,311 and 1,314, the Yu Loong firm against Shiu Cheong and Kwong Tai, his Lordship said—On August 29th last an action was brought in the Original Jurisdiction by two partners of the Yu Loong firm against the third partner claiming to have account taken of the partnership dealings and to have the affairs of the partnership wound up. On September 17 and 19 two actions in the Summary Jurisdiction were brought in the name of the partnership to recover from two firms—Shiu Cheong and Kwong Tai—the price of goods sold and delivered. After these last two actions had been launched, and in consequence of one, at least, of them having been brought, the defendant in the Original Jurisdiction action applied by summons for an order for the appointment of a Receiver of the credits, assets and effects of the partnership. This summons was heard on September 23, and Mr. S. A. Seth was appointed Interim Receiver, giving security for \$1,500 to the satisfaction of the Registrar. The order as drawn up refers to Mr. Seth as Receiver, not as *Interim* Receiver, and embodies the production of the security. On the same day, September 23, the hearing of the two Summary Jurisdiction actions was fixed for September 28. When these actions came on for trial it was stated in court that both defendants had paid the amounts claimed from them to the Receiver, Mr. Seth, who it was admitted had not, on September 28, furnished the necessary security. Mr. Grist, who appeared for the plaintiff in both Summary actions and for the defendant in the Original action, asked for judgment with costs, which Mr. Hastings, who was on the opposite side in the three actions, opposed, on the ground that the appointment of a Receiver ousted every person from receiving debts due to the partnership, and that to give judgment against the defendants in the Summary actions would be to compel them to pay these debts twice over. Mr. Grist based his application on the ground that the appointment of the Receiver did not take effect until it had been perfected by the furnishing of the security required. I am of opinion that Mr. Grist's contention must prevail. The appointment of Mr. Seth as Receiver was clearly constituted upon his giving security: until he gave that security his appointment was not completed; and in the absence of any authorisation to act before he had furnished the security he was not duly constituted to receive any of the assets of the partnership until the security had been furnished. The plaintiffs in the Summary action were, therefore, not barred from their ordinary remedy of an action at law to recover debts due to them as partners, and any judgment they might obtain. In *Ridant v. Fowler* (1904) 1 Ch. 658 at page 662, confirmed

on appeal (904) 2 Ch. 93, Justice Farwell made the following observations on the appointment of a receiver by way of equitable execution, and I see no reason why they are not applicable to the case of a receiver of partnership assets in an action between partners. His Lordship says—

“Whatever might be the construction of the appointment of a receiver by way of equitable execution, as applied to a character in real estate, I am of opinion it is such as regards personality that when the order is in the form of appointing a Receiver upon giving of security his appointment is not effected till the security is given. It is a conditional appointment and the giving of security is a condition precedent . . . and the Receiver unless he has completed his title cannot claim payment of the money! There will, therefore, be judgment for plaintiffs with costs in the two Summary actions, but, as Mr. Grist is satisfied by the payment already made by the defendants to the Receiver, who has since furnished the requisite security, execution as regards the amount claimed will be stayed *sine die*. As regards the costs: the defendants in each action will have to pay the costs incurred in his action. I cannot see my way to order the costs to be paid by the Receiver out of the assets of the partnership. This would be to impoverish the partnership assets and to punish the partners for taking an entirely legitimate course to confirm their claim as partners.”

Tuesday, 4th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

ACTION BY A BLACKSMITH.

The Choy Yuen firm, of Tan Chow, Canton, with the Hongkong address of 2 Queen's Road East, sued the Nam Hing firm, traders, 265, Des Voeux Road West, for \$255.50 for goods sold and delivered. Mr. Otto Kong Sing, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. K. Holmes, solicitor, for the defendants.

Mr. Kong Sing stated that the plaintiffs were blacksmiths and makers of sickles. On 11th March a contract was entered into between the parties for the supply by the plaintiffs to the defendants of 3,200 sickles, and these were forwarded on the 10th of July. A demand was afterwards made for payment, and in reply the defendants sent back a quantity of sickles, asking the plaintiffs to take delivery as part payment—in fact, almost full payment. Plaintiffs said these sickles were not the sickles supplied by them, and refused to take delivery.

After hearing evidence his Lordship said the question arose in this case whether the sale was a sale outright or was a mere forwarding of the goods for sale on commission. The evidence showed that a special mark had been put on the sickles because they were being consigned to a special firm. For some reason or other the defendant firm returned some goods, and he was convinced that the goods returned were old stuff, probably goods that had never been received from the plaintiffs. He held that the contract was for the sale of the goods out and out. Judgment must be for plaintiffs with costs.

Wednesday, 5th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE REAL PROPERTY ACT.

The case was again called in which Chan Kin Cho, trader 46, North Station Street, Yau Ma Tei, sued Chan Ting On, 48, Sheung Wan Street, Sam Sui Po, for specific performance of an agreement and \$500 damages. Mr. R. Harding, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, for the defendant. Plaintiff's case was that about the beginning of the current Chinese year he entered into negotiations with defendant to lease certain premises at Sam Sui Po. On 16th April a six years' lease was signed. But the plaintiff had never been let into possession;

although he had made repeated applications, and the defendant had failed to carry out this agreement. Defendant claimed that the whole question was whether the document was a lease or an agreement for a lease.

Mr. Grist said it would be remembered that when the case was last argued he assumed that the Real Property Act, 8 and 9 Vic., 1845, Ch. 106, was in force in this Colony. He admitted that this Act did not apply here, although it had been usually acted upon. But there was a further question with regard to jurisdiction under the Summary Court Ordinance of which section 19, sub-section 4, limited the jurisdiction in actions for specific performances of an agreement, such as a lease, to cases where the value of the property did not exceed \$1,000. It was admitted that this property did exceed \$1,000, and that being so there was no jurisdiction in that Court. He therefore asked that the action be dismissed.

Mr. Harding asked for a transfer of the action to the Original Jurisdiction under section 28.

Mr. Grist contended that his Lordship had no power to transfer a suit over which he had no jurisdiction. His Lordship had no jurisdiction in this particular case, therefore it could not be commenced in that Court, it could not be heard, and no order could be made except an order dismissing it. A proviso at the end of section 19 provided that the judge might transfer a case if he were satisfied it came within the provisions of the section; but this case was not within the provisions of the section, and therefore no order could be made with respect to filing petitions and answers and any other matters necessary for the proper adjudication of the suit.

His Lordship remarked that if an original action had been started in respect of the same property it might be more convenient to take them both together and so to transfer.

Mr. Grist pointed out that the section with regard to transfer merely contemplated that there was jurisdiction in that Court to transfer. The Court must have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the suit.

His Lordship in delivering judgment said that when the case was last before him the defence was raised by Mr. Grist that the document sued upon was in fact a lease and not an agreement for a lease, and he said that as it was not under seal then by virtue of 8 and 9 Vic., 1845, chap. 106, the document was void as a lease. To that it was replied that though the document might be void as a lease it might be valid as an agreement for a lease. His Lordship thought he would be prepared to hold on similar cases that he had looked into that, assuming the Statute 8 and 9 Vic., 1845, chap. 106, had force in this Colony, though the document was void as a lease nevertheless it was not valid as an agreement for a lease, on the ground that the document sued upon had nothing in it which showed an agreement to grant a lease at all. There was nothing in the document to show the date from which the lease had been granted, whereas in an agreement for a lease a given date must be given from which to grant the lease. In this document, then, there was absolutely nothing to constitute an agreement to grant a lease, so that if 8 and 9 Vic., chap. 106, had been a Statute in force in this Colony he would have held that the plaintiff could not successfully go on with this action. Only that morning it had occurred to him to see whether 8 and 9 Vic., chap. 106, was in force in this Colony, and after searching he had come to the conclusion, as Mr. Grist had brought to the notice of the Court, that the Statute was not in force here. This seemed to him to be a mistake which should be rectified, for it was just as well that the law with regard to leases here should be the same as in England; and he was not certain whether that statute had not been tacitly acted on in this Colony.

Mr. Grist said they had always acted upon it and it had come quite as a surprise to him to find it was not in force.

His Lordship went on to say that a valid defence had been set up to the effect that the value of the property in respect of which the lease was granted was more than \$1,000. This was admitted by Mr. Harding. Therefore under section 12 of Ordinance No. 4 of 1873 this Court had no jurisdiction; for as the property admittedly exceeded \$1,000 the jurisdiction of the Summary Court was ousted. In reply to

that he was asked by Mr. Harding to exercise any power he had conferred upon him by the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, section 28, No. 4 of 1873, and transfer the suit to the Original side. But it seemed to him that the power of transfer which he had there was limited. The section was peculiarly phrased, but he thought the effect of it was that where he had no jurisdiction to entertain an action in that Court he also had no jurisdiction to direct a transfer of that action from that Court in the Summary Jurisdiction to the Original Jurisdiction. As here the value of the property in respect of which specific performance of the alleged agreement for a lease is alleged to be claimed exceeds \$1,000, it appeared that what Mr. Grist said was correct—that he in the Summary Jurisdiction had no authority to transfer a suit which he had no jurisdiction to entertain to the higher jurisdiction of the Original side. The action could not be entertained, and he could not order its transfer to the Original Jurisdiction; therefore he would non-suit the plaintiff, with costs.

After hearing parties on the question of costs, His Lordship granted plaintiff costs on the first day's hearing only.

Thursday, 6th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PRINCIPAL JUDGE).

A PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE.

Chen Yik Tong, Cheuk Yeung Sai and Tong Noy, plaintiffs, sued Fung Tsz Tong, Lam Pong Kee, and Tong Fu Cho for \$451.16, being balance due on an account for goods sold and delivered. Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, of Mr. G. K. Hall Bruton's office, appeared for the defendants.

The first plaintiff when called said he was a co-partner in the business of the plaintiffs at Chinkiang, and they had done business with the defendants on a large scale for a considerable time. The sum sued for was the balance due on the account.

Cross-examined—Since his arrival in Hongkong he had received a sum of about \$3,000 in part payment of his claim, but the amount sued for was still owing.

Mr. Goldring stated with regard to the defence that this was a partnership of many partners, some of them being old men and women in the interior. There was a partnership dispute, the matter had been before the notice of the Chief Justice, and a receiver had been or would be appointed.

After hearing further evidence.

His Lordship adjourned.

S. C. FARNHAM, BOYD & CO., LTD.

From a *Daily News* report of the shareholders' meeting at Shanghai, we have taken the following extract from the Chairman's speech. The proposal before the meeting was for reconstruction with a view to accepting a proposal to purchase the company's business and undertaking by a new company to be formed and registered in London. There was a very large attendance. The Chairman (Mr. J. R. Twentyman) said: The Articles of Association enable us to enter into an agreement, but in this case we decided to have your acceptance of the conditions before entering into anything definite or binding. It is proposed to make the nominal capital of the Company £1,200,000 sterling: any more money which may be required will be raised by debentures in London at 5½ per cent. per annum. After the sale of this Company to the new Company, it is proposed to form another Company to take over the Old Dock and a portion of the land between the Cosmopolitan and International Docks at a valuation for wharf and godown accommodation. You will be made acquainted with all such proposals later on. We understand the proposed London Board of Directors are people of financial standing; it therefore seems obvious they would never go in for such an undertaking without a prospect of getting something out of the transaction. The shareholders are masters of the situation and will always have

the same power they have hitherto possessed, providing they continue to hold the majority of the shares. The Directors who are largely interested in the business are not likely to sell the undertaking which has proved such a valuable investment to them, without being sure of the benefits to be derived therefrom. The shareholders may therefore feel certain that everything will be fully considered before the agreement is signed. The conditions of the purchase are that the management in Shanghai remains the same as hitherto. (Applause.) There are two other points we wish to call your attention to. The first is after increasing the capital you are still within range of dividends from the present earning power. By extending the business you are in a position to increase the earning power, and if the wharf scheme is carried out, it seems to us, the shareholders should be in a very good financial position. Although this is brought before you for acceptance, it is by no means "un fait accompli," but we have no reason to suppose the parties with whom we are dealing will withdraw.—The proposal was accepted.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The 49th report of this Bank reads as follows:—The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year ending 30th June, 1904.

The gross profits of the bank for the past half-year, including 427,667.884 yen brought forward from last accounts, amount to 6,489,418.194 yen, of which 4,582,417.636 yen have been deducted for current expenses, interests, &c., leaving a balance of 1,907,000.58 yen.

The directors now propose that 20,000,000 yen be added to the reserve fund, raising it to 9,520,000.00 yen, and that 100,000.00 yen be placed to the silver funds. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum, which will absorb 720,000.000 yen on old shares and 360,000.000 yen on new shares, making a total of 1,080,000.000 yen.

The balance, 527,000.558 yen, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOMA, Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th September, 1904.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

	YEN.
Capital paid up	18,000,000.000
Reserve fund	9,320,000.000
Reserve for doubtful debts	235,381.830
Reserve for depreciation of bank's premises, properties, furniture, &c.	607,345.000
Reserve for silver funds	400,000.000
Deposits (current, fixed, etc.)	72,772,029.062
Bills payable, bills re-discounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	94,674,192.114
Dividends unclaimed	5,194.520
Amount brought forward from last account	427,667.884
Net profit for the past half-year	1,479,333.674
	Yen 197,921,143.884

ASSETS.

	YEN.
Cash account:—	
In hand	6,664,228.350
At bankers	6,830,130.990
	13,524,359.240
Investments in public securities	19,986,648.440
Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	51,895,124.20
Bills receivable and other sums due to the bank	110,284,672.504
Bullion and foreign money	161,514.933
Bank's premises, properties, furniture, &c.	2,068,823.950
	Yen 197,921,173.084

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	YEN.
To current expenses, interests, &c.	4,582,417.636
To reserve fund	298,640.690
To reserve for silver fund	190,000.000
To dividend—6.000 yen per share for 120,000 old shares = 720,000.000 yen; and 3,000 yen per share for 120,000 new shares = 360,000.000 yen	1,080,000.000
To balance carried forward to next account	527,000.558
	Yen 6,489,418.194

By balance brought forward 31st December, 1903	Yen. 427,667.884
By amount of gross profits for the half-year ending 30th June, 1904.....	Yen 6,061,750.310
	Yen 6,489,418.184

We have omitted only the usual certificate of audit. The chairman's speech at the shareholders' meeting we have already published.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

3rd October.

AMENDS TO MR. XAVIER.

In my account of the fire at Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg's oil godown here last week I did an injustice to the Portuguese caretaker, who was burnt, not in trying to save his own property, but in a brave attempt to put out the fire in the godown itself. The fire was caused by a Chinaman, who dropped the iron used for soldering tins into the oil, which immediately took fire. All the Chinese present fled, but the Portuguese did his best to stamp out the flames. He was only successful, however, in setting himself on fire, and had it not been for the presence of mind of an Indian, who rolled him over into the river, he would have been burnt to death. I much regret having given a wrong impression about a plucky act, and hasten to correct it.

ANOTHER FIRE.

There was another fire here on Saturday afternoon. It started in a shed on the water-side at Honam, and burnt its way for some distance along the bank.

POLITICAL.

Of political news there is little to record. The Viceroy is still in Kwangsi, but must return before long, as there are several questions of the first importance awaiting his decision. The affair on the British bridge, into which preliminary inquiries have been held by the American Consul on board the *s.s. Helena* and by the Namhoi magistrate at his Yamén, will perhaps require the Viceroy's attention, but apart from this there are other matters to be decided.

Firstly, the long-talked of loan—its amount I cannot vouch for—must be negotiated, as the Provincial coffers must be filled, in view of the continuance of the rebellion. There is also the question of the New Bund, which has been built so far into the river as to cause anxieties for the future of the front reach. Finally, the abolition of the office of Hopo, and the substitution of a Customs Taotai, is to be carried out shortly. Taotai Chu, who is to take over the duties of the Hopo, has been here for some time, and I understand that the Viceroy's presence will be imperative at the time when the transfer is effected.

The post of Hopo has always been held by a Manchu, who only remains in Canton for a short term of office, during which time he is said to "make" vast sums of money. The new regime will be hailed with delight by the Cantonese.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Viceroy Shum, who was reported to return to Canton before the Chinese Mid-autumn festival, has received a despatch from the Peking Government to stay in Kwangsi till order has been restored in every part of the province. Consequently His Excellency has sent to Canton for winter clothes.

Letters have been repeatedly received the last few days from the magistrates of the districts of Kwang Ling, Sz Wui, Hoi Kiu and Fung Chuen in Kwangsi by the Canton Government, asking for reinforcements and saying that the rebels, numbering about three thousand, most of whom belong to the Triad Society, are now on their way to the said districts from the district of Wai-Chop, where they have ransacked most of the villages, and where every line of business is at a standstill; and the merchants and well-to-do citizens have removed to other districts for safety. In reply to their demands the Governor has sent three battalions of soldiers to Kwong-Ling.

It is reported that General Wong-Tin-Sui had an encounter with the rebels a few days ago in Sheung-Yau-tong, in Lau-Chow, with five battalions of soldiers. The fight lasted three days, and the soldiers being greatly out-

numbered were at last defeated and routed, the number of rebels being over seven thousand, all well armed. Some say that General Wong has been killed, and others say that he is only wounded.

Li-King-Hi, the new governor of Kwangsi, and nephew of the Late Li-Tung-Chang, arrived in Chuen-Chow of Kwangsi on the 21st ultimo. His Excellency has not yet taken up the seal; for he has now discovered that Governor Aw has taken away with him over one hundred thousand dollars from the treasury, and he determined to make enquiries into the case first, in consequence of which he has wired for the prefect of Wuchow, who is the principal witness. On account of the rebellion in Kwangsi, a large number of soldiers stationed in various districts have been sent thither, so that many places have been left unprotected, and the poor people being entirely neglected by the mandarins are now at the mercy of the robbers. Therefore the robbers, knowing that they can carry on their depredations unmolested, multiply gradually, and are fiercer than ever; they generally issue forth at present in broad daylight in a gang of about a hundred. On the 24th ult. a gang of about twelve dozen robbers made an attack on the village of Wu-Ti-Chong in Shun-Tak district. Eighteen houses belonging to the well-to-do citizens were ransacked and very valuable booty was carried away. The robbers being not satisfied with what they had already in their possession, seized three persons, masters of rice-shops, whom they carried away with them. When they took their departure they burned the watchmen's station. On the following night the same gang broke into a neighbouring village named Kwei-Chow-Li. This time only one house was plundered and a well-to-do citizen was added to their list of prizes. When they left, they told the villagers that their leader's name is Pun-Lung-Ting, and told them to go to a certain place to redeem the captives.

CORRESPONDENCE

HON. MR. SHEWAN'S SPEECH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—Your daily dissertations, dealing as they do with an infinite variety of subjects, seldom fail to awaken more than a languid interest. Your opinions, moreover (save the impertinence!), are inculcated with a power and wealth of literary allusion, and an apt facility of expression which do not make them either less palatable or less easy of digestion. It is on these grounds that I differ from you on the subject of Mr. Shewan's speech with great diffidence and with a sense of responsibility.

In your leading article of to-day's issue you admit the existence of grievance against the Government which, in common with Mr. Shewan, you wish to see remedied, or carefully safeguarded against in the future. You are also able to discover many gratifying features in the said speech, e.g., evidence of distinct ability, and a good *casus belli*. But your fatal objection to it is its alleged want of dignity. You are apparently in absolute sympathy with Mr. Shewan as regards essentials, but you object to the Debating Society style and want of dignity. You object, however, not incidentally, but in such a way as to make one feel that if at any future time one wishes to inspire an emotion of sympathy in the noble breast of the leader-writer, one must comport oneself with a degree of dignity which would prove an insuperable obstacle to many a worthy aspirant to such high favour. Does the manner of presenting the facts matter very much so long as it is effective? Does it not look like swallowing the camel and straining at the gnat? Surely sufficient incense is already burnt on the altar of dignity by the members of the Legislative Council? If the latter suffer from anything in their deliberative capacities, it is a plethora of dignity, and a Sphinx-like silence. A little less of both would be an improvement. After all, a little flippancy—which might be encouraged if not carefully cultivated, in some of the younger official members—is not one of the seven deadly sins, even if perpetrated in so august an assemblage as the Hongkong Legislative Council. The other day a Member

of Parliament was heard to murmur in the British House of Commons the meaningless but somewhat poisonous word "Rats." Nothing happened; there wasn't even the customary calling to order by the chair. What—what would happen, supposing—be careful, I only said supposing—that someone, quite accidentally, of course (in a moment, say of temporary insanity), whispered that terrible word in the Hongkong Legislative Council? The Colonial Secretary (having administered the Government for a brief period) would probably have a fit on the spot; indeed he nearly had one at the last meeting. Would the Governor collapse? Not he! It is probable that the only other casualty would be, I am sorry to say, no less a person than the esteemed Editor of the "Daily Press."

During the interregnum the members of Council have enjoyed a period of exemption from public criticism. The Press has resounded with the praises of the late Officer Administering the Government, and well has he deserved them. But even the summer time comes to an end, and to the evil humours that occasionally collect in one's alimentary system after an unusual surfeit of good things Mr. Shewan's speech, with its biting sarcasm, will prove a powerful antidote, if not an effectual preventative.—Yours truly,

"SCOTLAND FOR EVER."

QUERULOUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 1st October.

SIR.—I was able to comprehend without much difficulty the masterly specimen of Commercial Oratory which appeared in your paper this week, thanks to the frequent aid of my little Webster which emanates from the office of a certain gentleman who has made Milwaukee famous. Largely through his efforts many throughout the world have given up the worship of the god "clo custom" and have now become ardent devotees at the shrine of the Milwaukee goddess.

Talking of oratory reminds me that I am not keeping pace with the *Times*. *Tempora mutantur!* I realise with a thrill, that the requisites for a popular speech nowadays are that it be of great length, rambling and "slashing," sprinkled with contradictory statements and generally muddled. It seems to be the fashion to say that you are finished when you have only begun. The scholarly practice of quoting from the Classics continues in popular favour.

Is it a fact that such phrases as English gentleman, code of honour, playing the game, *contra bonos mores, infra dig.*, etc., are now obsolete? Was it Francis Bacon who gave a budding politician the absurd advice to refrain from mixing personal animosity with public duties? I understand now the appropriateness of Macaulay's memorable sentence. Are any of these words interchangeable in a speech: Man, caddie, eulogy, toady, fawning publican, Corsican bitters? My grammar teacher at Rugby used to tell me that words constantly changed in meaning.

Please state, in millimetres, the difference between "hitting at the belt" and "hitting below the belt."

I think culture is the latest fad of the business world, is it not? What literary treasures should I invest in? Would you recommend Scotch novels, Dickens, Lives of Kaiser Johann and Austen Chamberlain? Shakespeare, of course. I can't remember at the moment any of his heroes except Othello, Caesar and Caius Cassius. I don't suppose I need go in for Dr. Smith's *Principia Latina*; *Tit-bits* advises its readers to use instead the Appendix of Phrases at the end of dictionaries. I had no difficulty in locating the Latin command to turn your head round if you want to see behind you.

The journalistic custom of interspersing bracketed words in reports has apparently been consigned to the limbo of things forgotten. This is regrettable. Even sensitive Mr. Chamberlain needs the encouragement of large audiences. However, not all orators like Birmingham, and may such receive time's noble vindication.

Trusting you or your readers will kindly oblige with answers, and that the labour fo-

hunting up Authorities will not drive any *usque ad nauseam*,—I am, etc.,

TOM BROWNE.

P.S.—What is Sir Christopher's monument? Is it of gold or of silver? Was he the author of a dissertation on the use of sounding brass for empty vessels?

[Curiously enough, the above letter was delivered about the same time as that from "Scotland for Ever." Curious, inasmuch as it *per se* illustrates the nullifying effect of "flippancy" overdone. Its literary method ought to command it to the writer of the first, even though it is as much hostile to the Hon. R. Shewan's speech as the first is in favour. It is so far ineffective that (but for its illustrative value) we should have consigned it to the waste paper receptacle.]

A HONGKONG SALVAGE SYNDICATE.

THE "AGINCOURT". RECOVERED.

The Douglas s.s. *Hailoong* arrived here on the 3rd inst. with the s.s. *Agincourt*, recently stranded on Hainan Island, in tow. A syndicate, comprised of Sir Paul Chater, Mr. H. N. M. dy, Mr. J. W. Jameson, and others, decided to make an attempt to save that steamer, and also the s.s. *Baron Gordon*, lying wrecked on Bombay Shoal. The *Hailoong* was chartered for the purpose. Capt. Mutton, her skipper, was interviewed and gave the following details about the refloating of the vessel:—

We left Hongkong at 6 a.m. on the 15th of last month, and arrived at the locality where the *Agincourt* was wrecked next day at half-past one in the afternoon. We had on board Mr. J. W. Jameson, and a European and Chinese salvage staff; also pumps, hawsers, etc. By the evening of the 18th ult. all the salvage plant and staff had been transferred to the *Agincourt*. On boarding her, on the 16th ult., it was found that a recent typhoon, which passed close to Hainan Island, had half filled the holds, heavy seas, apparently, having washed up and about the decks, breaking over the vessel. In the 'tween decks, midship section, some of the stanchions were bent, and one at least being broken off. With the exception of what I have mentioned, however, there did not seem to be any further damage since the time Mr. Newman Mumford visited her. We left Hainan Island on the morning of the 19th ult., and proceeded to the wreck of the *Baron Gordon*, at Bombay Shoal, Paracels. Mr. Jameson and the captain and chief engineer of the *Baron Gordon* were on board. Next morning (the 20th), at 10.15 a.m., we arrived within half-a-mile of the vessel. She was bolt upright on the extreme edge of the reef. From our close point of observation we could not see any damage—even the funnel and paint-work looked fresh—so the typhoon could not have had any damaging effect at all on the wreck. At the place where the wreck lay there must have been some three feet of water on the reef, while a few feet away there was a sheer depth, over the edge of the coral, of some 50 to 100 fathoms of water. As the weather was slightly squally, and spray was dashing right up to the bridge of the wreck, it was not considered advisable to try and reach her in a boat. We left the locality at 11 a.m., and steamed out to the track of vessels, with a view of signalling messages either to Hongkong or Singapore. Having met no vessels before dark, we altered our course for Hainan—the *Agincourt*. We arrived at our destination next day (the 21st), to find nearly all the salvage pumps ready for working, and two anchors out from the *Agincourt*'s bow, with 120 fathoms of wire hawser on each. It only remained for the vessel to be lightened before making an attempt to tow her off. This, however, was no small job. On the 22nd at half-past-two our tow line was secured to the stern of the *Agincourt*. At 6.15 p.m. we started to tow, and continued to do so without success till eight o'clock, when we took the tow-rope on board. Next morning at six o'clock we got closer in to the ship, and again made a rope connection with the stern, and towed. The weather now assumed a threatening appearance, there being every indication of a typhoon. We continued towing till 10 a.m., when as a result of the increased swell from the eastward, on the *Agincourt*'s

hull, the hawser parted. The *Agincourt*, it may be remarked, was in a sort of cradle. The weather by this time was looking very dubious indeed, and the *Hailoong*'s position was very far from comfortable, so we picked up both anchors at noon and steamed for Tin Hosa Anchorage, where we brought up at 1 p.m. The weather remained threatening and squally till noon of the following day (the 24th). At 4 p.m. on that day we hove up the anchor and went around to have another look at the *Agincourt*. Finding her all right, we proceeded to Hoihao. At that time (4 p.m.) we signalled the s.s. *Siam*, bound for Singapore, and asked her to report by a wire to Hongkong that all was satisfactory with us. On the 25th ult., at 10 a.m., we signalled the German s.s. *Apennide*, the captain of which very kindly undertook to receive and deliver at Hongkong our despatches, which were sent off to him in one of our boats. We arrived at Hoihao at 11 a.m. On going ashore with the intention of sending a telegram to Hongkong, the telegraph official informed us that he could not guarantee that our message would reach Hongkong under three days—no telegrams were sent. Hoihao is not a very up-to-date place. To signal for water we had to hoist a bucket half way up the mast. We left Hoihao on the 26th ult., at 2.20 p.m., having succeeded in securing (in our 27-hour stay) ten tons of fresh water and some fresh provisions. We arrived back at the *Agincourt* on the 27th ult., at 7 a.m. On the 28th ult., at half-past-nine, we got ready for towing the *Agincourt*'s bow, and at 11 a.m. commenced doing so. At 2 p.m. we stopped for a while, having managed to pull the bow out about 60 feet. At 8.30 p.m. on the same day (28th ult.), having shifted the position of the *Hailoong*, we renewed towing till half-an-hour before midnight. On this occasion we succeeded in bringing the ship to a position at right-angles to the beach. At 10.40 a.m. on the 29th we towed again, till 11.25 a.m., when the tow-rope, a new ten-inch Manila, parted. We secured the tow-line again and, at a quarter-to-one, recommenced work. At 1.20 p.m. the hawser parted for the third time, so we quit towing. At 3.30 p.m. we ran in a four-inch wire, and made fast to the *Agincourt*, and, at 4.30 p.m., towed again. At 6.15 p.m., as dark was setting in, we stopped towing, and secured everything for the night, intending to continue towing on the following morning. As the tide rose, at 8.30 p.m., the *Agincourt* floated, and those on board her immediately hove on their two anchors, while the *Hailoong* shortened in the tow-line connecting the two vessels. The result was that at 9.30 p.m. the *Agincourt* was securely moored in four-and-a-half fathoms. At six o'clock next morning (30th ult.) we cast the tow-line off, and proceeded to get in readiness for towing the *Agincourt* to Hongkong. By noon two hawsers—two 12-inch lines, 100 fathoms long—were secured to our stern, and to either bow of the *Agincourt*. The anchors were hove up at 12.30 p.m., and we proceeded at full speed for Hongkong. During the trip up we experienced fine weather, having no trouble whatever with the vessel. We arrived off the west point of Lamma Island at 6.0 p.m. Sunday, and anchored for the night. At six o'clock this (Monday) morning we proceeded to secure alongside of the *Agincourt*, and in this position towed her through Hongkong harbour. She anchored off No. 1 buoy, Kowloon Docks.

Mr. J. Watt Jameson, interviewed by a representative, gave some interesting particulars concerning the salvage of the *Agincourt*. He said she went ashore on the south of Hainan Island between Hainan and Namking Island. She was in ballast. She was driven ashore in a gale. When her plight was reported the Douglas s.s. *Hailoong* was chartered for salvage purposes, and she left Hongkong on the 15th September with all the necessary salvage gear on board and a wrecking party under the charge of Mr. J. Watt Jameson. The *Hailoong* arrived at the scene of the disaster at one o'clock on the 16th ult. and commenced operations by putting the salvage gear on board the *Agincourt*. The holds were found to be full of water up to within a few feet of the 'tween decks and the engine room full up to below the cylinders. The salvage gear and an engine having been put on board the pumps

were set to work. On the 17th an 11-inch pump was put on to clear the engine-room and a 12-inch pump on the No. 1 hold. These were kept going till the 19th, when the *Hailoong* left for the purpose of surveying the wreck of the *Baron Gordon*, the salvage of which had also been entrusted to Mr. Watt Jameson. The *Baron Gordon* was reached at 10 a.m., on the 20th, but there was too much sea on the Bombay Shoal, where she lies, to allow of a landing. However the ship was found to be intact, with her flag signals still flying, showing that she had not been overtaken by any typhoon since going a-hore. There was about five feet of water all round her. Seeing that there was no chance of proceeding to save the *Baron Gordon* for the time being, a shape was again made for the *Agincourt*, and it was found there that the engine-room had been pumped out; two bower anchors had been laid out and the salvage work was progressing well. On the 22nd towing was commenced on the after port quarter, in an increasing swell. On the 23rd the towing hawser broke in the midst of the typhoon and the *Agincourt* had to be sunk again to save her from the fury of the sea. From then until the 27th nothing could be done. On the latter date the engine room was pumped out and steam got up in the main boilers. On the 28th the ship's head came out 60 feet and on the 29th another 60 feet. On the following day the ship was floated, and at 12.25 p.m. the voyage to Hongkong was begun in fine weather, the *Hailoong* towing with 120 fathoms of hawser between the ships. On Sunday the weather freshened to a north-east breeze; the *Hailoong* and her tow arrived in the Harbour at 6.30 p.m. and anchored off Green Island. Yesterday morning she was towed over to the Kowloon Docks, where she will be put through a general overhaul. The *Agincourt* does not appear to have sustained very much damage.

The *Baron Gordon* is expected to be savable if the weather should hold fine, and she lies in a position favourable for the operations of the salvaging party. Mr. Watt Jameson intends to leave Hongkong shortly with the *Hailoong* to undertake the salvage of the *Baron Gordon*.

LAPPA TRADE REPORT.

The report for the year 1903, from Commissioner Morehouse, of the Station just outside Macao, contains the following items:

LOCAL.—The total value of the junk trade passing the Lappa Stations during the year under review was Hk. Tls. 16,756,562, being Hk. Tls. 141,816 less than the figures of the previous year, which was a record. Junk-borne goods have really declined in volume. Indeed, it is hard to see how there can be any genuine progress in the junk traffic under prevailing conditions. There is no lack of evidence that the trade of the south-western prefectures is being drawn away from Native junks by an increasing number of steamers which now ply between Hongkong, Macao, and Kwangchowwan. The cargoes of these steamers, by which the west coast is served, are not submitted to the levy of the Duty and Likin which Native junks cannot easily evade. Then the immediate opening of Kongmoon as a Treaty port must certainly have the effect of attracting cargo from junks to steamers. Also piracy has been more rife than in past year. The prohibition against the export of Rice and Paddy was nominally raised, and a Native syndicate was granted a monopoly towards the end of the year, on an annual payment of \$500,000. Owing to very strong opposition on the part of the people, the farm was abolished within three months of its establishment; during its existence not a single picul of Paddy or Rice passed the Lappa Stations for export to Foreign countries.

REVENUE.—The total collection for the year amounted to Tls. 385,473, or Tls. 38,542 less than in 1902. To account for this decline it is necessary to mention one item only, Opium, which yielded Hk. Tls. 53,595 less than in the previous year, while Duty and Likin Outwards declined Hk. Tls. 12,321. On the other hand, it is satisfactory to note that General Cargo Duty and Likin Inwards made a substantial advance, of Hk. Tls. 24,174, and Ching-wei shows a gain of Hk. Tls. 3,200, due to increased receipts from Kerosene Oil and Cotton Yarn.

FOREIGN TRADE.—(a.) *Imports.*—The total value of this branch of the trade, Hk. Tls. 5,032,627, shows a decline of Hk. Tls. 537,468. This is eminently satisfactory considering that the 1902 total, Hk. Tls. 5,570,095, was enhanced to the extent of Hk. Tls. 2,525,405 by the abnormal importation of Rice and Paddy, whereas for the year under review the estimated value of these cereals amounts only to Hk. Tls. 1,129,548, thanks to a good harvest, thus leaving, if grain be eliminated, a net increase of some Hk. Tls. 900,000. About one-half of this gain, apart from the loss under Opium receipts, referred to in the remarks under that heading, is to be accounted for by the increased quantity and higher value of Indian Yarn which passed our Stations, more especially for Tungkun and Chantsun, to the value of Hk. Tls. 1,162,698, against Hk. Tls. 692,810 in the previous year. There is a better demand now for this article, which the country districts require for cloth weaving, and the reduction of 40 per cent. on Foreign tariff rate, allowed at Lappa, naturally encourages its passing our Stations. White Shirtings fell off 30 per cent., while Grey Shirtings remained stationary. Receipts of Shirtings—Dyed, Figured, etc.—have increased from 8,461 to 11,899 pieces, and Unclassed Cotton Goods, from 30,597 to 39,087 pieces, to which fabrics of Japanese origin contributed no less than 24,835 pieces. This class of goods is steadily advancing, owing to a growing demand in Sanning, Cheungsha, Sanui, Yeungkong, and other market towns in Shiuhsing. The inhabitants of these localities are said to prefer them, not alone because of their cheapness, but also for their suitability in the making of clothes and articles of household use. The trade in Metals of all kinds shows an improvement, and as to Sundries there is a general mark of progress. The importation of Kerosene Oil eclipses all previous records, amounting to 2,336,820 gallons, or an estimated gain of Hk. Tls. 289,282 in value; this unprecedented importation is, in the first instance, largely due to the reduction of the *Ching-fai* tax, from 85 to 33 per 100 cases, whereby a quantity of Oil, which previously reached the interior *via* Canton under Transit documents, was attracted through the Lappa Stations; and, in the second instance, to the prevalence of piracy, which causes merchants to send, in lieu of remitting money in exchange for Native produce, a commodity in general request and one which does not offer such temptation to pirates.

Exports.—The value of the Export trade is Hk. Tls. 5,527,690, that is, Hk. Tls. 400,488 less than in the previous year and a decrease of Hk. Tls. 718,927 as compared with the year 1901. The decline is even more serious than the figures quoted would appear to indicate: to appreciate their full significance the fact that the prices of many commodities—notably Silk—have risen considerably, must be taken into account, with the result that the total values are increased to an extent that is calculated to produce an erroneous impression and conceal the fact that the Export trade has declined. In illustration of this, the nine leading articles of export, excluding Rice, amount in value to Hk. Tls. 3,303,152, whereas if their value is computed in accordance with the value list of 1902, they would amount to only Hk. Tls. 2,521,154. In other words, there is a quantitative decline in the principal articles of Native produce exported equivalent in value terms to Hk. Tls. 782,000. To state the matter in another way, the comparative table of the principal articles of export shows that of 29 items, exclusive of Rice and Paddy, no less than 21 show a decrease more or less important, while the detailed table of Exports reveals the fact that out of 123 items nearly 80 have declined in quantity. The diversion of Mats from Native craft to steamers, referred to in my Report on the trade of 1902, was still more marked during the year under review, which shows a further decrease, of 5,262,564 pieces, representing a value of Hk. Tls. 243,195. There were no less than six small steamers, one, of 237 tons, flying the Portuguese flag, running, more or less regularly, from March to September between Kwangchowwan, Hongkong, and Macao, whose cargo consisted largely of Mats, which would otherwise have been carried in junks through our Stations. A subordinate reason for this decrease is that considerable consignments of Mats are finding their way from Shiuhsing—a secondary seat of the industry

—to Samshui, whence they are shipped by steamers, e.g., 1,685,395 pieces were carried away by West River steamers, against 715,552 pieces in 1901 and 1,238,796 pieces in 1902. Another staple article of export, Brown Sugar, shows a marked decrease, of 93,928 piculs, valued at Hk. Tls. 320,024. To what is this notable falling off attributable? The 1902 harvest, the bulk of which would not be ready for export before the beginning of 1903, was reported to be a short one, and this point should be allowed due weight in forming an opinion as to the cause of the marked decline in question. A minor portion of the 1903 crop, which was a good one, came forward for shipment towards the end of the December quarter. It is a noteworthy fact, however, that not a single picul passed our Tungho Station, as against 20,000 piculs in the previous year. When it is considered that Luichow is the chief sugar-producing district, and that the west coast is served by an increasing number of steam craft, as already noted in the case of Mats, the inference is plain that much of this cargo is ceasing to be junk borne, dealers having commenced to ship their merchandise by steamers direct to Hongkong or Macao on payment of Export Duty only, thus escaping further levy at the Lappa or Kowloon Stations. Moreover, not only do these steamers carry cargo cheaper and more quickly than junks, but, what is of greater importance still, they are less likely to be attacked by the pirates who infest the entire coast, for during the year several of the large west-coast trading junks were pirated. Furthermore, better prices have been offering at Kongmoon than at Macao with the result that sugar from Luichow or Yeungkong has been sold at Kongmoon, whence it may have been exported in West River steamers. Also Leaf Tobacco shows a decrease of nearly 9,715 piculs, representing a value of Hk. Tls. 177,761, and this in spite of the fact that the crop was reported to be an excellent one—a decrease also probably due to shipments direct to Hongkong by steamer. Of articles of export, the only ones which show marked increase are Whole Silk Cocoons and Fired Black Tea; the former advanced from 467 to 1,001 piculs, and the latter, from 8,342 to 11,557 piculs. Owing to handsome profits having been made in the preceding year, owners of filatures, silkworm rearers, mulberry growers, etc., were stimulated to greater exertion in the development of this trade, although it is said that several filatures which were established in Shuntak city and its vicinity have not found a speculative success.

OPIUM.—(a.) *Foreign.*—The total quantity of Raw Opium paying Duty and Likin amounted to 1,421 piculs, thus showing a decrease of 487 piculs. In addition to 1,089 piculs appearing in our Returns, steamers plying on the Macao-Samshui line carried to Kongmoon and Kumchuk 328 piculs, and the Duty and Likin paid balance of 4 piculs had not entered China on the last day of the year. Reference to Table No. 12, Destination of Opium, shows that there has been a decline in respect of even the districts under the immediate control of this office, and this disagreeable feature of the table is emphasised by the fact that there was a simultaneous decline of 152 piculs imported by steamers into Kongmoon and Kumchuk. The following figures exhibit, according to Hongkong statistics, the quantities of Opium declared as shipped thence to Kwangchowwan, for a period of three years:

1901.	1902.	1903.
Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
974	1,224	1,807

while for the same period the figures for Lappa are:

1901.	1902.	1903.
Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
1,611	1,908	1,121

Apart from the increase *via* Lappa in 1902, as explained in my Report for that year, due to a special and transient cause, the latter figures show unmistakable symptoms of decline, and of a decline that, under existing conditions, is certain to be permanent, while the Kwangchowwan trade is surely and rapidly acquiring a volume which promises to overshadow the figures attained to by Lappa in former years. The reason for the marked increase credited to Shuntakshing is explained by the fact

that dealers availed of the return trip of a well-guarded silk-boat trading regularly between Lappa and Shuntak rather than incur the greater risks of robbery involved in forwarding consignments to the above city through Canton. It will be noticed that the falling off to Sanning and Cheungsha, etc., is more marked than ever. Unless, as indicated in my previous Report, measures are adopted to secure that the trade shall follow legitimately its natural route, the day cannot be far distant when the Lappa revenue derived from Opium will cease to be of much importance. The Macao Opium farmer received during the year 3,130 chests; of this quantity, his reported boilings down for local consumption were 893 piculs, that is, 72 piculs less than in 1902, and he reported 2,423 piculs as shipped to American and Australian ports, or 719 piculs less than in the previous year.

KOWLOON TRADE REPORT.

Commissioner J. R. Brazier's report for the year 1903 embraced the following items:

Of the total value of the trade taken cognizance of by this office, amounting to 42½ million taels, no less than 90 per cent. passes the stations on the Canton River estuary. Our figures, therefore, are largely affected by any change of condition in that district, either climatic or fiscal. Of the 37½ million taels worth of goods junk-borne in the delta, 16 million taels represent the value of foreign imports, 6 million taels the value of native imports, and 15½ million taels the native exports to Hongkong, roughly speaking. These figures all show a falling-off from those of the previous year, and three circumstances, for the most part, account for the decrease: the disaffection and partial famine in Kwangsi in the early part of the year; then the very plentiful rice crops in summer and autumn, causing a large decrease in rice import and, finally, the fluctuating exchange. The uncertainty as to the outcome of the Kwangsi troubles rendered property insecure, and no more goods were imported than could be actually sold and got rid of without the risk of indefinite storage. The import of rice and paddy fell from over 5,000,000 piculs in 1902 to under 2,000,000 piculs during the year under review. There were large stocks in hand, and the summer and autumn crops were so good that rice was even permitted to be exported for a while. Exchange fluctuations rendered commercial transactions most difficult and perplexing. The average demand value for the Mexican dollar here for the March quarter was about 1s. 7d., for the June quarter 1s. 8d., and for the last two quarters of the year between 1s. 9d. and 1s. 10d. The lowest rate was in the end of January and beginning of February, 1s. 6 13-16d., and the highest in the beginning of September, 1s. 10 11-16d., a difference of practically 4d.! Copper cash, too, have fallen from 935 for a dollar in the first half of the year to 900 at its close. These same reasons account in a large measure for the falling off in native goods imported and exported by junk; but another important cause is that all the more valuable cargoes, such as silk, yarn, cassia, etc., are seeking steamer conveyance, especially since the control of the Native Customs at Canton came under the Foreign Inspectorate.

The total revenue for the year, Tls. 326,800, shows a decrease of Tls. 29,276 on the figures of the previous year, and is the smallest collection on record. A fourth of this amount is duty and likin on opium; but, of course, it is to be remembered that while we collect the likin and *Ching-fai* on general imports for Canton at Taishan and Lintin, the duty is payable at Canton, and that all dues leviable on exports from Canton or elsewhere are payable at the port of origin, and nothing but the very little cargo from neighbouring places pays at Tai-shan. There is a shrinkage under each duty heading except imports. This increase in imports is accounted for by larger quantities of goods of the "Sundries" order, chiefly kerosene oil, taken by other places than Canton. With development of steam towage, as a safeguard against piracy, the import heading will be still further augmented. The duty and likin on opium, although less than that of 1902 by some Tls. 19,000, is the largest collection

of the previous 10 years. Cotton yarn, which pays a mace a picul as *Ching-fei*, fell from 19,140 to 402 piculs, and this decrease is the main reason for the loss under the *Ching-fei* heading. The tax on the rice permitted to be exported from Canton was guaranteed and paid to the Viceroy by a syndicate of interested merchants, but the permission to export has just been withdrawn owing to the enhanced price of the cereal at both Canton and Yangtze ports, and also on account of the present long spell of dry weather which threatens the spring crop.

FOREIGN TRADE.—(a) Imports.—The total value of foreign imports amounted to Hk. Tls. 16,871,299, against Hk. Tls. 22,092,223 in 1902. The large proportion of the decrease is seen under the Canton trade, viz., from 17 million to 12 million taels. The chief reasons for this have already been mentioned. With the exception of grey shirtings and chintzes, cotton goods show a falling off under almost every heading, and the figures for woollens are not more encouraging. Cotton yarn was formerly carried in amounts of over 100,000 piculs a year, whereas now it has dwindled down to a few hundred. This is owing to there now being no advantage in shipping by junk; formerly, a rebate was given by the Native Customs at Canton. Taxation now being identical, it is more advantageous to send it by steamer—the more so as transit passes are thereby obtainable. Metals also show a decrease, chiefly in copper wire, iron bars, nail-rod iron, pig iron, scrap iron, lead, steel bars, tin slabs, and tinplates. Amongst Sundries, the three kinds of kerosene—American, Russian, and Sumatra—aggregate a total of almost 5 million gallons, as compared with 4½ million in the preceding year; but this is a serious decrease when compared with 15 million in 1901 and 12 million in 1900. By going in chartered junks under foreign flag, and by tank steamer and lighter, the *Tso-li* tax is evaded. Rice, as has already been mentioned, fell from nearly 5 million piculs to a little more than 1½ million piculs, owing to good crops locally. Betel-nuts show a healthy increase of from 7,795 to 11,930 piculs, the greatest import for five years. Coal continues to increase as launches multiply up country; it is a cargo which will probably continue to find favour in junk traffic. Foreign leather, which anterior to 1900 showed only a few hundred piculs, has during the year more than trebled the import of 1902, with 7,877 piculs of a value of half a million taels. Native shoes are being soled with foreign leather to a greater and greater extent in and around Canton. Ground-nuts, matches, pepper, sapan-wood, and sharks' fins have all exceeded the preceding year's figures. On the other hand, *Beche de Mer*, raw cotton, cuttlefish, salt fish, flour, window glass, rattans, sandalwood, sugar, and timber all show decreases. The total value of native imports amounts to Hk. Tls. 5,016,253, as against Hk. Tls. 3,652,119, an increase more apparent than real, inasmuch as while the quantities have not altered much, the prices of the commodities have greatly enhanced, as witness salt fish, which actually shows a falling off of 2,940 piculs but an increase in value of Hk. Tls. 1,130,851. This most striking anomaly in South China's main food staple is due to the fact of numerous fishing disasters; fewer boats engage in the industry, while the demand for salt fish remains unabated. The value of the native goods imported to Canton shows an increase of half a million taels.

(b.) Exports.—The value of the native produce exported, i.e., sent to Hongkong, amounts to Hk. Tls. 17,411,439, being only some Hk. Tls. 200,000 less than in 1902. As already pointed out, the valuable cargoes are abandoning junks in favour of steam, and in no other article is this more strikingly exemplified than in silk. In 1898, 2,399 piculs of raw silk and 4,611 piculs of silk piece-goods are recorded as exported, and in the year under notice, after lessening by degrees, we find one picul of raw silk and 650 piculs of silk piece goods, while wild silk is absent from the returns. Another item, cassia lignea, from 50,000 and 60,000 piculs a year formerly, and 24,000 piculs in 1902, has dropped to but 22 piculs in 1903. Fresh eggs and fans, which are exported in millions, matting, silk and cotton shoes, and brown and white sugar have all decreased. Against

this we may record fairly large increases under the headings of gunny bags, straw mats, cattle, dried lichees, and limestone.

Coastwise Arrivals (i.e., produce exchanged between Chinese ports via the Kowloon Stations).—The value of this trade amounted to Hk. Tls. 3,202,804, a very slight difference compared with the corresponding figures of 1902. Salt, again, has fallen off from 2,491,773 to 1,722,865 piculs, but the value shows a decrease of some Hk. Tls. 70,000 only, owing to its greater value of a tael per picul at Canton this year. Regulations were issued by the authorities at Canton ordering all salt junks to carry certain papers issued by the Salt Commissioner, and which are to be produced at our stations; absence of papers is to render the junk and cargo liable to confiscation. This has resulted in the trade being confined to fewer boats, and possibly more strenuous efforts are being made by unauthorised boats without papers to pass the station and Salt Commissioner's guard-boats.

SHIPPING.—The number of steam-launches reporting at the station during the year was 4,49, being a decrease of 437. The number of junks was 40,088, being a falling off of 5,547. This is accounted for by there being no rice junks and fewer salt junks.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.—The number of passengers passing the stations outwards and inwards was 312,475, being a small decrease.

OPIUM.—The importation of foreign opium into China by junks passing the stations in this district during 1903 was 727 piculs of the raw drug and 3 piculs boiled, as against 909 piculs raw in 1902—a decrease of 20 per cent. With the exception of 1902, when, owing to the shortness of the native opium crops, there was an exceptional import, these are the highest figures since 1893. The stocks of the various kinds of opium in Hongkong at the beginning of the year aggregated 6,906½ chests. During the year the arrivals amounted to 45,93½ chests, making a total of 52,840 chests to be accounted for. There were exported to Shanghai, East Coast ports, Canton, Macao, Kwangchowwan, West Coast, and used for local consumption, 47,356 chests, leaving 5,484 chests in stock at the close of the year. There also passed through Hongkong 94 chests of native opium. The prices per chest for Bengal drug in Hongkong were: Benares and Patna, opening at \$99½ and \$99½ respectively, gradually advanced to \$1,092½ and \$1,115 in the middle of March, but again declined to \$1,005 for Benares and \$1,010 for Patna in May. At the end of May, owing to a report that has not been confirmed that the Szechwan opium crop had suffered injury, a demand sprung up and price increased till they reached \$1,080 for Benares and \$1,185 for Patna in July. In the latter part of July, owing to heavy fluctuations in Calcutta, prices declined to \$1,040 for new Patna and Benares. In August the prices of Bengal drug rose to \$1,070 and steadily increased, owing to the firmer market in Calcutta, until at the end of the year the price for Benares and Patna stood at \$1,250, the highest quotation on record. Malwa rates opened at \$960 per chest for new and \$1,000 to \$1,060 for old, and continued with slight fluctuations about those prices throughout the year. I am told that on the whole business has been profitable, and that neither importers nor Chinese dealers have any cause for complaint. On the 1st August the privileges of the Opium Farmer in Hongkong were sold by tender by the Government. The purchasers were the present farmers who, for the three years March 1904 to March 1907, bid the sum of \$2,200,000 per annum, or nearly three times the sum paid for the present tenure, \$750,000 a year. During the year 4,312 chests of opium were shipped to Macao and 1,664 to Kwangchowwan. While the amount sent to Macao shows a falling off of some 673 chests, the figures to Kwangchowwan have doubled those of 1901, and are 617 chests ahead of 1902!

MISCELLANEOUS.—As money was tight and interest high, native bankers had a profitable year. Unfortunately, property on sea and on land is not as secure from molestation as it might be. The pirate and robber, while neither so frequent nor so bold in their depredations now as in former years, still carry on their nefarious trade. Six piracy cases were reported from the vicinity of Taishan, in the Canton River estuary, and 18 cases from the East Coast

Bias Bay district during the last six months. The prospects of trade for the ensuing year open far from brightly.

BOXER AGITATION AGAIN.

Writing on the 17th September, the N.C. Daily News correspondent in North Western Shantung sends some sensational news. In this region, it will be remembered perhaps, there have already been several outbreaks within a few months on account of reluctance to pay the reduplicated taxes imposed by the Father-and-Mother officials, largely for their own behoof, but all of which are laid to the "foreign contribution." A few days since, he says, numerous agents of what is openly announced as a "Band of Public Harmony" (I Ho T'nan) in precisely the same terms as were used in 1899 and 1900, busied themselves in disseminating "written prospectuses" of their society, just as was done five and four years ago. He secured two copies of this document, which begins in the name of "Hung Chun" by which term is designated either nature as a whole, or according to the mythologies the first of divinities, who announces that on the seventh of the seventh moon of the current year the Fairy Spirit Niu Lang (the "Milkman" or Cowherd of Chinese superstition, fabled to meet his celestial bride for a single night only at this date) will begin to operate, and all men are to wait upon his movements, keeping lamps burning all night. Every member of every family, old and young, male and female, must wear a red strip of cloth about the head (just as in 1900) and burn incense three times with faces to the south-east. During the entire night no one is allowed to sleep, and if any should be disobedient, Niu Lang would be unable to descend to his "altar" to save mankind from their woes. The same ceremonies are to be observed on the 15th of the 7th moon. From the 1st of the 8th moon to the 15th, a full half-moon, no one is allowed to eat meat or to drink wine. If this rule is violated all the family, old and young, are certain to be injured by foreigners ("yang jan"). For three days no one is to light any fire, for should this be done it will be impossible to fend off the guns and cannons of the foreigner. On the ninth of the ninth moon, foreigners are to be exterminated root and branch (chien ts'ao ch'ien ken). All the gods and spirits will then protect all under-heaven which will be peaceful, the fire grains will be produced in abundance. All persons are to assist in propagating this notification. A single sheet will ward off the calamities of one individual, three copies circulated will ward off ills from a whole family, ten sheets will do the same for an entire village, so that they can all learn the principles of the I Ho T'nan, or Harmony Band. Thirty copies of this sheet will induce supernatural manifestations. The notice closes with a reminder that the 7th of the 7th moon, the 8th of the 8th moon, and the 9th of the 9th moon are the dates when fire is contra-indicated. In a closing line one is informed that the boards on which this document is cut are kept in the Jui Hsing block-cutting shop, on the west side of the "Yen Shou Monastery street" in Peking. To each copy the name of the individual who circulates it is appended. In every way these openly issued and widely scattered circulars are noteworthy. The attention of the proper authorities has been called to the fact.

VOLUNTEERING IN HONGKONG.

In view of the attention aroused by His Excellency the Governor's energy regarding volunteering in Hongkong, we think the following interesting particulars might be of service to those young men in the Colony who for some unaccountable reason still decline to enroll themselves in the corps. At the same time, while regretting that the response to the appeal for new members has not been more general, we are glad to learn that recruiting is steadily going on, and that quite a number have joined recently. To those who are in the considering stage, we would point out that the present is the time to join, as it is now the opening of the season, and the camp of instruction will be held from the 21st to the 31st proximo.

The number of drills a recruit is required to put in, in each of his first two years, is only 30, while a trained Volunteer is only bound to do 15, though of course it is expected he will attend more to become thoroughly efficient. The Volunteer season commences in October and ends with March, i.e. six months, so there can be no possible hardship as far as time is concerned in putting these drills in. Nor can the excuse that garrison artillery work is not popular be urged. Volunteers are now only expected to have a sound knowledge of the 15 Pr. B. L. gun and the Maxim gun, and to have sufficient acquaintance with infantry drill to enable them to march past at review and at the annual inspection, &c. We often hear it said that drill is "slow." That might apply when a mere handful of men attend, but if sufficient numbers were present no such trivial excuse could be offered, as competitions between half companies or even guns could be instituted, and the spirit of rivalry thus introduced. Moreover, if a man were energetic or keen enough to drill three or four times a week, he would find that he could go in for gun-laying one evening, 15-Pr. drill another, Maxim drill the next, and infantry drill the fourth, with perhaps the chance of a march out or gun practice on Saturday. To us there seems quite sufficient variety about this. Ample opportunities are afforded for rifle shooting, and valuable prizes are presented by members of the corps. Very shortly, we understand, the new shortened rifle now being issued to the British Army will also be supplied to the H.K.V.C. in place of the Lee-Enfield carbine. Several times during the season practice with both the 15-Prs. and Maxim's takes place, and we should imagine nothing in the way of shooting could be more interesting than to take part in the firing of the former and to watch the burst of a well-aimed shrapnel shell over the target 2,000 to 3,000 yards distant. To most men also, we should think, there would be a sense of satisfaction in sitting behind a Maxim gun and directing a stream of bullets at a barely visible target and noting the spurts of water they cause in striking all round it.

Last, but not least, there is the annual camp of instruction at Stonecutter's Island, with its discipline, drills, lectures, &c., and its many enjoyments as well. Camp is whatever the men make of it, but on the whole they recognize that it is not a picnic, but established for the purpose of teaching them their work.

All that the Hongkong Volunteer Corps needs is numbers, and if only the "young men in offices" would stop a moment to think how much they owe to the Empire of which they are so justly proud, and how little they can contribute towards it, perhaps they would recognize that the least they could do would be to fit themselves for its defence in time of need.

THE LAW VINDICATES ITSELF.

HONGKONG LAUNCH LICENCES CANCELLED.

At the request of the Hon. Capt. L. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., Harbour Master, H.E. the Governor has cancelled the licences of the launches *Kong Soo* (trading between Hongkong and the West River) and *Lee Chung* (trading between Hongkong and the New Territory), as a punishment for repeatedly carrying excess of passengers. The two launches were fined several times for the offence. Fines, however, had no effect on them, so the present cancellation of licences, which had to be done by the Governor, has been resorted to. It is hoped by this means to stamp out the practice, which, it may be remarked, is carried on to a great extent by Chinese-owned vessels. The Harbour Master indeed has had several complaints from Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, and other firms, as this carrying of an excess of passengers interferes with legitimate trade. This, we understand, is the first time that launches have been punished in such a manner at this Colony, yet the Chinese are, and have been for years, most persistent offenders in this respect. Launches go up river, dodging the police boats, carrying such loads as render them a danger to life. It is a wonder, indeed, that no lives have been lost. So long as the owners make good money they do not seem to care a cent how far they endanger other people's lives. The two launches in question will not

be allowed to resume their trade. How long this order will last is hard to say. It seems quite certain, however, that their owners will be allowed to complain for a time.

DEATH OF LAFCADIO HEARN.

The death of Lafcadio Hearn, the famous and prolific word-painter who had made his home in Japan, and idealised that country and its people for very many English readers, was announced on the 29th September, and the interment was to take place on the 30th. He was 54 years old, and had been recently living in retirement while busily engaged upon another book.

He was born in the Ionian Isles, his parentage being half Irish, half Greek, which accounts for the mixture of poetry and exaggeration in his work. He had an unpleasant affection of the eyes (one being quite useless) which made him almost blind, and his very large output is all the more amazing in view of that. He had lived a very adventurous life, and loved to speak of his experiences in Texas, whither he wandered as a youth of nineteen or twenty. He was printer, journalist, and anything connected with paper and ink. He was sent out to the East by Harper's, on a commission connected with the Philippines, and when some misunderstanding with that famous publishing firm arose, he went to Japan and settled there, the country and its inhabitants appealing strongly to his romantic temperament. In the course of time, during which he made numerous friends at Kobe and Yokohama, he reached Tokyo, and subsequently succeeded Professor Chamberlain as Professor of English Literature there. He naturalised, and married, under the name Koizumi Yakumo; and there is a jest current in Japan (where foreigners did not always sympathise with their nationals who expatriated themselves), to the effect that the Japanese rewarded him by putting his salary on the native scale, reducing it from 250 yen to 50 yen a month. He occupied the professorial chair from 1896. One of his chief foreign friends was Paymaster Mitchell McDonald of the American Navy, a gentleman of literary taste and culture who lives at Yokohama. To him one of Mr. Hearn's books was dedicated. Many foreign visitors to Japan used to inquire almost immediately for the poet who had exposed for their benefit the real heart of Japan. In time, they always discovered things that caused them to adjust most of the impressions formed from reading "Kokoro" and similar books. Such of them as still desired to render homage to the famous writer met with poor encouragement. Mr. Hearn having (perhaps because of too much incense) grown shy and unapproachable. If his enthusiasm for things Japanese led him to paint the rose very often, the final verdict on his work must include the admission that he was a master of English, most of whose books will live if only for the sheer beauty of their literary form.

AN ARRIVAL FROM NEWCHWANG

A gentleman just arrived in Hongkong from Newchwang, who does not care to have his name published, has talked to one of our reporters about what he saw at Newchwang when the Japanese occupied that place. Necessarily, much that he had to tell is no longer fresh, but some of it is interesting. He described how first of all five Japanese scouts galloped into the Governor's Palace yard, and saw the Russian commercial flag flying. They had rifles slung and revolvers in hand. Some Russian official (it may have been Governor Grossi) waved a white handkerchief from a window, and the scouts went away. He states that the Chinese had already done a good deal of dismantling property when the main body of the Russians left, even to taking away official furniture and uprooting plants from the gardens. When the afore said scouts returned, they saw the French flag flying over the palace. A Russian eagle was noticed on the building, however, and they allowed three hours for that to be removed. Next about sixty Japanese arrived, and a crowd of foreigners, British, German, and others, gathered to watch proceedings. The only Russian uniform

in evidence was that of the humble policeman, who was placed under arrest. The Chinese police were quite officious in offering to help the Japanese. Our informant says the Russo-Chinese Bank building, which belongs to an Englishman, was shut up, but that some Americans had managed to convert a lot of its furniture into loot. The Russian Governor and the few officials who remained with him were allowed to leave peaceably for Tientsin. The Japanese immediately set about repairing the extensive damage done by Japanese. A Japanese officer told him he expected to winter at Harbin! Our informant also volunteered the opinion that for commercial purposes he would rather be in a place occupied by Russians than by Japanese.

VOLUNTEER CONCERT.

It is quite possible that the *al fresco* concert given on the 5th inst. on the Volunteer Parade Ground was one of the best Hongkong has had for some time. We are sorry that, owing to the exigencies of printing, we were unable to remain for the second part. With the first part, we have to express the most sincere gratification. It began a quarter of an hour late. His Excellency the Governor not arriving until 9.15; but the excellently played overture, *Les Cloches*, by the Band of the 114th Mahrattas (for whose assistance the audience was indebted to the kind indulgence of Major W. Mosse) soon removed any impatience that might be felt. The vocal programme was opened by Lieut. G. P. Lammert, with that pretty piece of Edward German's, *Dan Cupid hath a garden*. Lieut. Lammert gave an almost faultless rendering of this somewhat trying song. There was no suggestion of the liaison to which we referred last time, and he attacked with the most tuneful precision. The difficult minor note towards the end of the second verse was beautifully attained. Encored he sang *Gather roses while ye may*. Those who may have noticed the aspirating trick in "Ti-hime" in this song must remember what an awkward place it is. We have heard the Patti treat the prolongation of the word in just the same way. The rich quality of Lieut. Lammert's voice was pleasingly apparent in his encore effort. Florence Aylward's music is usually satisfying, and in the gentleman who came forward next, to sing *Love's Coronation*, the audience had the pleasure of hearing a highly trained singer who had evidently mastered all the secrets of successful voice production. He slurred beautifully, and gave adequate expression to the tender theme. Being deservedly encored, Mr. Frank Austin essayed a song of a totally different and more difficult kind, without any diminution of ability. His first song, by the way, had a cello obligato by Mr. Koenig. Item No. 4 was the duet by Carl Gotze, *Still as night*. This composition never did appeal to us. The accompaniment had no apparent relation to the theme. We remarked, however, the fine tone of Mrs. Craddock's voice, full, round, and appropriate. Her partner, Mr. W. M. Stewart, as well as she, evidently knew the piece perfectly; but we regarded as a blemish on his otherwise satisfactory rendering an affectation toward the artificial tremolo, which is not always so expressive as amateurs imagine. Mr. H. A. Tozer's humorous songs do not enter the province of musical criticism. The fact that they delighted the audience very much has to be recorded as usual. Mrs. Gordon next sang *Kathleen Mavourneen*, in a mated contralto of remarkable timbre. Contralto, while correctly classificatory, hardly describes this voice, since it suggests certain limitations by which Mrs. Gordon was certainly not embarrassed. To call it a cello voice would be more apt, as it had almost the compass of that noble instrument, and many of its charming effects were observable. The slur of an octave and a half in the song was perfect. Mrs. Gordon was encored, and sang a piece full of feeling which again proved her an artist steeped in music, and with highly trained. In one or two notes some harshness was perceptible, but her genuine vibrato and general culture more than atoned. We regret that we had to miss the singing of Mr. W. E. Schmidt, who was down for a song in the second part.

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB.

A meeting of those interested in forming a cricket club at Kowloon was held at the Seamen's Institute, Kowloon, on the night of the 5th instant. Dr. J. H. Swan presided. A letter to Dr. Swan, from Mr. E. Osborne, was referred to. Mr. Osborne advised that those interested in the matter should first decide what they wanted. If they applied for a ground for cricket alone they might have trouble, whereas an application for a general recreation ground would, perhaps, be favourably received.

Mr. SCOTT CRANSTON suggested that it was hardly likely that King's Park would be set aside for one club alone. He believed that the best course would be to apply for a general recreation ground, similar to that at Happy Valley.

Mr. GOYNE STEVENS asked what was the position.

Dr. SWAN replied that the object of the meeting was not in connection with a general recreation ground, but to start a cricket club.

"Quite so," said Mr. STEVENS. They did not want a big piece of ground—not all King's Park—but, for the present, just enough to make a pitch.

The CHAIRMAN: And for cricket alone.

Mr. PARKS agreed with the Chairman; if they set the movement on foot it would roll on. Let them establish a club to be called the Kowloon Cricket Club. They had nine or ten young players, he knew of himself, fit to go in on the morrow. They could put a team as soon as Saturday to beat all the minor teams at Hongkong.

Mr. McGOWAN seconded that such a club be formed, and the motion was carried by a show of hands.

The following committee for the Club were selected and agreed to by those present: Dr. J. H. Swan, Messrs. Celland, McGowan, Cowan, Goyne Stevens, Scott Cranston and Parkes.

Mr. Harold Austen was made secretary *pro tem.*

The CHAIRMAN recommended that a committee be selected to approach the Governor on the subject of getting a small piece of ground at King's Park.

Mr. P. W. GOLDRING thought that the best mode of procedure would be to send in a notification to the Colonial Secretary saying that they were willing to take up any site allotted to them at King's Park. He did not think petitions or deputations were any good.

Mr. STEVENS thought that they had better apply to the Governor.

Mr. COWAN agreed. There was nothing like going to the fountainhead, and he was mistaken if Sir Matthew Nathan did not receive the deputation favourably. He would perhaps write a minute and instruct the P.W.D. They ought to mark out five or ten acres on a plan to bring forward in case they were asked what they wanted.

Mr. GOLDRING said that if they did not go to the P.W.D. they would probably put every obstacle in their way. Mr. COWAN did not think so. His advice was adopted and a committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, was selected to approach the Governor: Mr. W. B. Dixon, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. J. H. Swan and Mr. W. Cowan.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

REVIEWS.

Japan by the Japanese. A survey by its highest authorities. Edited by ALFRED STEAD. London: William Heinemann. 1904. Twenty shillings.

DEDICATED by permission to the Japanese Emperor, this collection of essays on the Imperial Family (by Baron Sannomiya), the Constitution (by Marquis Ito), the national policy (by Marquis Yamagata), the Diet (by the Minister of Justice), the Army, the Navy, Diplomacy (an excellent chapter by Professor Nagao Ariga), Education, Finance, Religions, Taxation, Banking, Commerce, Agriculture, &c., &c., forms an altogether unique volume. Nothing just like it has been done before. It ought to disabuse the world of many errors of

opinion with regard to Japan, but we fear that the general public will still follow after the false and chaperon scribblers who have, through ignorance and lack of skill, conspired to create those errors. As it is impossible to properly treat all the various articles in the space at our immediate disposal, we shall have to return to the book as occasion serves. Indeed, this will no doubt be done as a matter of course by most journals, as the book must now be regarded as the work of reference on things Japanese. We are glad to note that in the preface the Editor has not considered it unimportant to remind us that before the so-called "civilisation" of Japan there was "already in existence a wonderful national civilization." It is, indeed, open to question if the Japanese as a nation are any happier for the change that has come over the spirit of their dream. Incidentally, we may stop to admire the customary modesty with which young Mr. Stead premises "I may have some little knowledge and some little understanding of the Japanese people, but I certainly could not write authoritatively of Japan." It is just as well to remember that, in view of some things that have been written. For his idea of inducing the Japanese to supply such material he deserves the fullest credit—but then, he has already taken it, in the preface. The inclusion of a lot of matter that is not new is explained in this way, that some of the contributors had already expressed their views so thoroughly "that to write on them again would only entail repetition." Therefore, the book repeats what they had already published. Notwithstanding these things, Mr. Stead has every right to claim that it is "A unique work of great interest." Mr. Stead personally thanks the Emperor for so graciously accepting what "I have thus tried to do for their country," and records his admiration of that Ruler's qualities.

The Cyclones of the Far East. By Rev. JOSE ALGUE, S.J., Director of the Philippine Weather Bureau, Manila Observatory, Manila: Bureau of Public Printing, 1904.

This is the second and revised edition of Father Algue's great work on typhoons and their characteristics and data, which work occupies foremost rank among the numerous authorities on the subject generally, and stands absolutely alone as a careful and methodical treatment of extraordinarily minute observations and discoveries made in the course of forty years' enthusiastic study. In the first section the painstaking and erudite author has explained the nature of the typhoon, its origin, its structure, its laws, and its movements, elucidating the text with a great many diagrams and charts prepared with the neatness and accuracy always to be expected from such a patient worker. The second part exhaustively describes the phenomena which generally precede typhoons, and provides the student with some practical rules for making proper use of the early warnings which thus enable him to gather a good idea of what is likely to ensue. Here, in these precursory signs, we have an introduction to the study of cloud phenomena which is likely to be as interesting to the casual student as it must undoubtedly be useful to the mariner or other interested observer. The most up-to-date methods and apparatus are also described. The author in the third section advances a voluminous mass of evidence confirmatory of all that has gone before, including instances of the different types and classes of typhoons, and preparing the student for some exceptions and anomalies that he will probably encounter when making observations for himself. The practical parts of the work have been presented with an especial view to helping mariners to a set of rules for navigation in cases where they encounter abnormal atmospheric conditions, and numerous ports of refuge are named and their characters from the ship-master's point of view adequately set forth. This is the first genuine English edition of the work. A volume in English purporting to be a similar book was first translated from the Spanish into German, and thence into English, and is full of inaccuracies and even nonsense. No one reading this edition right through is likely to seek elsewhere for information relating to the topics treated. It is manifestly exhaustive, manifestly able, and save that it is by no

means a "popular" work, we should expect its publication to be hailed with the acclamation deserved by a real *magnum opus*.

HONGKONG.

Sanitary measures against Hongkong are still adopted at Manila, Indo-China, Burma, Shanghai, Madras, Bengal, British North Borneo, Labuan, Newchwang and Siam.

The annual rifle competition between Hongkong, Shanghai, Singapore, and Penang is now due to take place, and is to be completed before the 15th inst. Each team, consisting of ten men, is to shoot off on its own range, using British Service pattern rifles: f.303 calibre. Each man has seven shots at 200,500, and 600 yards. Umpires, as representing the Straits, Hongkong and Shanghai, will be present during the shooting.

Mr. P. W. Sergeant, who after filling the editorial chair of the *Hongkong Daily Press* for four years returned home in June last, has been playing in the Chess tournament for the amateur championship at Hastings. Mr. Sergeant started well and was second favourite in his section, but lack of match practice told in the end and he finished fourth. Mr. Sergeant's many friends in Hongkong will be interested to hear that he is writing a book on the life of a Russian Empress, to be published in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Malley, the "honeymoon couple" from America who are on a walking tour round the world, called at our office on the 4th inst. We had not the time to do more than glance at one of the wonderful series of albums the enterprising pair have filled with souvenirs of the journey. We noticed, however, from earlier photographs, that Mrs O'Malley, whilst wonderfully "fit," has acquired some traces of the hardships of so great a tour. Mr. O'Malley informed us that he intends to lecture in Hongkong. In the meantime they have a lot of good picture postcards for sale.

Owing to the large size of Northern Pacific and Pacific Mail steamers the old moorings have got to be shifted farther west, so as to allow sufficient fairway in the northern channel. The moorings of the very large s.s. *Manchuria* are being moved now. The fairway itself is supposed to be about 1,000 feet, but as these great steamers have been allowed to swing right across it at times, only 500 feet, and in the case of the *Manchuria* 400 feet, have been left—so the fairway has been more than half closed to in-coming and out-going vessels. The old mooring positions will very probably not be done away with altogether, but reserved for smaller vessels. A few years ago vessels did not moor westward of the China Merchants' wharf. Now owing to the great expansion of trade and shipping, West Point is quite a centre. This, of course, is partly due to so many godowns being now on the western waterfront.

Vessels arriving from India, Straits Settlements, and elsewhere, are besieged by Chinese boarding-house runners long before they anchor. The sampans, in fact, go right out to the entrance of the harbour and hook on to the steamers while they are steaming through the harbour at a very fair speed. The police are wholly unable to cope successfully with the offenders. As soon as the sampans have got a hold, with considerable agility the boats' painters are hooked into a scupper hole, and the steamer tows them along. Bamboos are then hooked on to the ship's rail, and the runners swarm on board in great numbers. Once on deck, they practically fight like a pack of wolves for the passengers' baggage, the poor emigrants being obliged to follow into whichever sampan their effects are thrown, or lowered. When the captain or one of the officers of a steamer shouts out ordering them to let go their boats, they take no notice whatever; and there are not sufficient Europeans on board—in fact all are busy otherwise to prevent the men from climbing on board—especially taking into consideration that there are boats forward and aft. As the Indo-China s.s. *Nam Sang*, from Calcutta, was steaming into the harbour on recently the customary nuisance recurred. She was going so swiftly through the water when the foremost boats hooked on that one of them, having her rudder over the wrong way, capsized. The occupants were saved.

Early next year the 119th Bombay Infantry and 129th Baluchis may come to Hongkong.

Mr F. Hazland, the senior Police Magistrate of the Colony, is returning from his holiday by the S. & O. steamer Ceylon, which left London on the 17th ult.

We have been favoured with a copy of the *Middelburg Observer*, published by T. M. Pollock at Middelburg in the Transvaal. Mr. Pollock was formerly on our staff, and we are glad to see he is doing well.

Two companies of the Sherwood Foresters have gone into camp at the new rifle range, Old Kowloon City. A company of the 110th Mahratta Light Infantry have gone into camp at the foot of Customs Pass.

The Governor and Mr. E. A. Irving, Inspector of Schools, paid a visit of inspection to Kowloon School on the 4th inst. H. E. asked that the pupils might have a half holiday. The boys sang the National Anthem.

Replying to a telegram from the Colonial Secretary, the British Consul-General at Shanghai has telegraphed that the quarantine restrictions were withdrawn on the 17th September.

Four Chinese candidates for pilots' certificates were examined at the Harbour Master's Office on the 6th instant. All failed, and were put back for a fortnight. European candidates will be examined in a few days.

In a criticism of the new book by the writer whom the *Sunday Sun* of Manila calls "Henry Savage Slander," that paper incidentally remarks: "We have one of the healthiest cities in the Orient. As compared with Hongkong, it is a paradise."

The new *China Review* at Tientsin is decidedly "newsy." It mentions that it has been arranged that, after Lord Curzon's return to India, Mr. R. Nathan, C.I.E., at present Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, will join the Viceroy's staff as Private Secretary. Mr. Nathan is a brother of the Governor of Hongkong, and of Major Nathan, of the C. E. & M. Co.

When the land officer certifies that a reassignment has been made for the sole purpose of enabling the mortgagor as the owner of any property held from the Crown to obtain a Crown lease, and a new mortgage of the same property similar in all respects to the previous mortgage is made immediately upon the granting of such Crown lease, reassignment and new mortgage are exempt from stamp duty.

From October 24 to December 31 obstructions will be laid in an area to the south of Stonecutter's Island. The area will be defined by two small black buoys, each surmounted by a white flag, laid about 1,500 yards south of the southernmost point of Stonecutter's Island. The east and west boundaries will be drawn due north to meet the Island. Anchoring within this area will be prohibited, but there will be no obstruction to through navigation.

A Chinese detective was recently observed vigorously punching a hawker in the vicinity of Des Vœux Road. Two Europeans intervened and put an end to the assault. The hawker expressed an ardent wish that the matter could be brought to the notice of the detective's superior officers. It was suggested to him that the best means of doing that would be by summoning the detective for assault. But the hawker would not entertain the idea for a moment, explaining that he feared this would result in greater violence to himself, if not by the detective, then by "hired loafers."

At about four o'clock a.m. on the 1st inst. a *lukong* noticed smoke issuing from No. 11, Eastern Street, in the Western District. He blew his whistle, and three other constables came on the scene. A fire was found on the second floor, in a corner, burning fiercely. The heap consisted of a quantity of inflammable material soaked with kerosene, and several bladders of kerosene, containing about two quarts each. One of the bladders had just become ignited when a *lukong* rushed into the fire and snatched it, and another, away from the flames. The fire was smothered with damped blankets. When the Fire Brigade arrived, under Mr. E. R. Hallifax (deputy superintendent of police), and Mr. H. G. Baker (chief inspector), there was nothing left for them to do. It is said that the premises were heavily insured. The *lukong* who plucked the bladders from the flames will probably be rewarded for his bravery.

MISCELLANEOUS.

According to *L'Indo Chinois*, people in the "exquisite" town of Hanoi, of which the neighbouring settlement, Cochin China, is notorious, in spite of their peculiarities, are not a bad lot. "Hanoi" soit qui mal y pense."

It is reported that the Japanese Minister at Peking, Mr. Uchida, has told a member of the Waiwupu that the Japanese Government knew President Chou Erh hsun as a competent official and is quite willing to welcome him if he be appointed as the head of administration of the three Eastern Provinces.—*Universal Gazette*.

General Petzel, commanding the German troops in N. China, and Mrs. Petzel, celebrated their Silver Wedding on Sept. 25th. The reception was held in the morning, and they received the congratulations of many friends, both foreigners and Chinese. Admiral Yeh sent one of the most interesting bouquets, consisting solely of flowers which represent in Chinese "Good Luck." Several tiffin and dinner parties were also being given by German officers to their friends in celebration of the event.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says that the work on the New German Club (at Shanghai) has begun, and on the 22nd October the foundation stone will be laid. Prince Adalbert of Prussia has kindly promised to be present and to assist in the ceremony—in fact the Prince asked that the date might be fixed on the 22nd Oct., it is being the birthday of his Imperial mother the Empress of Germany. We learn that preparations have been made by the committee appointed for the purpose to make the ceremony as impressive as possible.

It has been found that Mr. J. Mitchell, who disappeared from Shanghai some time ago, causing suspicions of "foul play," left on the night of the 21st September by the C.M. str. *Anping*, going on board about five minutes before her departure for Chefoo, and getting his ticket on board. This accounts for the reason that enquiries among the shipping offices failed to show where he had gone to. He returned by the C.M. str. *Taishan*, and on landing, proceeded to the Hotel des Colonies, and there met a friend who told him that a number of people had been looking for him. Mitchell thereupon disappeared again, on September 29th. Detective Sergt. Gilfillan, who was in possession of the warrant, succeeded in arresting the man on the 30th, on the French Mail steamer, where he was booked under an assumed name. He was subsequently arraigned at the British Consular Court on a charge of defrauding a Chinaman of a large sum of money. There are other charges.

The N.-C. *Daily News* of the 1st instant say that the party conducted by Lieu-Col. Manifold, which travelled by way of the Han River into Szechuan, has returned to Shanghai after an absence of about eight months. We understand that the Mission, so far as it has an official purpose, was an entire success, while from the point of view of a travelling trip it was equally enjoyable. From one who accompanied the party during the earlier stages of the journey we have already published a series of articles descriptive of the important and flourishing cities up the Han River. Those who continued with the expedition into Szechuan confirm all that has been previously written and said of the immense potentialities of the great province which only needs to be more accessible and to possess itself greater facilities in the way of communications to be one of the richest in China. The wealth is there, but the people are at present exceedingly poor. Well-meaning attempts have been made in various centres to gain an insight into "western learning." Halls have been set aside as schools, and there have been would-be scholars in plenty, but the difficulty has been to find anyone to give the teaching. The only instructors likely to be available in the near future are Japanese, who not only have valuable sympathies with the Chinese order of intelligence, but can subsist on smaller stipends than would be required by foreigners. When Col. Manifold's party passed through the west they found no symptoms of disturbance and everywhere met with courteous and kindly welcome. Col. and Mrs. Manifold leave for home by the English mail on Monday.

The Shanghai Rowing Club opened a new boat house on September 29th, and "signified the same in the usual manner."

The Tientsin Autumn Race Meeting will be held on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd November. There are nine events on each day, but the values of the respective races are not yet filled in the programme.

An examination, open to all qualified natural-born British subjects, for appointment in the Civil Service of India or for Eastern Cadetships in the Colonial Service or for clerkships in the Home Civil Service, will take place in London commencing on the 1st August, 1905.

A Japanese school has been established at Yingkou under the authority of the Japanese Military Administration Office. The opening ceremony was held on September 20th, when the Foreign Consuls and some Japanese and Chinese traders, numbering about a hundred, were present.

This emanated from the Foreign Office. "A statement was made by a member of the deputation from the London Chamber of Commerce which waited upon the Prime Minister on 25th ult. that the Russian Government had paid compensation in respect of the sinking of the German vessel *Thea*. H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg has informed H.M. Government that this statement is incorrect. The owner has taken steps to appeal from the decision of the Prize Court at Vladivostock to the Supreme Admiralty Council at St. Petersburg."

At the North Randfontein mine on 30th August the Chinese labourers endeavoured to strike. They objected to the deduction from their wages of the £3 advanced to them in China, and demanded that it should be considered as a present. Immediate repressive measures were taken, and 50 ringleaders were arrested for disobedience to orders. The coolies at the other mines are contented. The steamer *Courtfield*, with 2,152 Chinese coolies on board, has arrived at Durban. There were a few cases of dysentery on the voyage, but no deaths.

Mr. Holland, the inventor of the Holland submarine, claims that he has invented a practical flying machine with four wings, which he will be able to sell for ten dollars. The machine will be capable of moving from forty to fifty miles an hour. Mr. Holland says "When I invented the submarine I was laughed at even by scientists and by mechanical engineers, but they do not laugh now. I believe that I have solved the problem of flying, and I predict that my machine will be in general use in five years' time."

With regard to the appointment of Captain Wirren to the command of the Port Arthur squadron, the *China Review* learns that Captain Wirren was only promoted to his captaincy three years ago. There are 101 captains in the Russian Navy, and Captain Wirren is the seventy-seventh in seniority. He has thus been promoted above the heads of many senior officers, and may resort to some exceptionally bold course for saving the remaining ships in Port Arthur as an earnest of his promotion. The Japanese will now be more vigilant than ever in watching the squadron.

The death of Herr Johann Nölting, of Shanghai, which we briefly announced elsewhere morning, is thus referred to by the N.-C. *Daily News*: Shanghai loses a very old and a very much-respected resident in the person of Mr. Johann Nölting, who died here at noon yesterday of heart disease at the age of 64. He was the doyen of the German commercial community here, and there can be few, if any, in the whole commercial world here who antedate him. He came out to Bangkok originally in 1861, and in the following year he came to Shanghai, which has been his home for 42 years; he had only made two trips home in that time, the last being in 1883. He was for some years a partner in the firm of Telge, Nölting & Co., afterwards joining the firm of Taumeyer, & Co., of which he was head partner at the time of his death. For many years he was one of the leading comedians in the brilliant company of amateurs who delighted so many audiences at the Concordia Club, in the little theatre in the Foochow Road. Mr. Nölting and his amiable wife had a large circle of friends of all nationalities, for he was one of those kind, quiet genial men who never grow old and who cannot but make friends and cannot make enemies.

There can now be no doubt of the opening up of China. The *Shanghai Mercury* reports that on September 26th a Chinese funeral procession was seen passing along, and that the deceased's bicycle was a conspicuous object therein.

The French gunboat *Surprise* returned to Kiukiang on September 25th from a cruise in the Poyang Lake. She did not go further than Nanchang; it is said that the Chinese pilot declared he was unable to take her further into the lake.

The *Courrier de Tientsin* learns, on good authority, that the Chinese employed on the Yunnan Railway are rapidly dispersing owing to their fear of being forced to enrol by the Chinese sent to raise troops, or the alternative of being considered as rebels.

While tacking to leave Woosung on September 29th, a heavily-laden Chinese vessel refused to answer her helm and was carried on the tide full against the Austrian Lloyd steamer *Trieste*, then at anchor. The steamer suffered little, but the "lorcha" was so badly damaged that she had to return to discharge her cargo.

L'Echo de Chine says that the Japanese painter Murata, who did some remarkable work in connection with the China-Japanese war, has left on board a man-of-war, by Imperial desire, to see and picture the capture of Port Arthur and the naval combats preceding that event. Our contemporary sees in this incident an illustration of the confidence which breeds success.

Among the Chinese labourers who recently arrived at the Van Ryn Mine, Johannesburg, is one who proudly exhibits two British medals. The first of these is for service in China, the labourer having at one time been a private of the native regiment stationed at Weihsien. The second is the Coronation medal, the Chinaman having been one of the party sent to London in 1902 to represent his regiment.

A merchant of Riga, named Hirrow, has been placed in prison for a curious offence. He had missed his last train home, but, finding that a goods train was shortly to start, he bought a fowl and booked it by the train, at the same time obtaining a ticket for himself as attendant on live stock. He reached his destination, but was afterwards arrested, and is now being prosecuted by the railway company for fraud. His fowl has been confiscated.—*Korea Daily News*.

The technical school attached to the Board of Commerce will be opened in Peking on the 1st of the 9th Moon (20th Oct.) The number of scholars is now temporarily limited to 120, who will be divided into six classes and taught various technical subjects. The required books and instruments have been imported from Japan, and the annual expenditure will be defrayed out of the sum of Tls. 200,000 which was given to the Board of Mining and Railway Affairs (now abolished) by a Chinese merchant from Singapore in exchange for some mining concessions in Kwangsi.—*Tientsin Official Gazette*.

Thus Hector Fuller, American war correspondent:—"When I was released from jail and went among those Russian soldiers, I realized that, with all their faults, they were white men, and there came upon me a full realization of the difference between the white and the yellow. If Japan should win this war—and I hope she won't, and do not see how she can—it will be the worst thing that could happen, so far as America is concerned." Perhaps it is just to explain that Fuller was in jail only for invading Port Arthur without leave. He was at Chefoo, empty of news, and went over in a junk to get fuller. He seems full now.

The *St. Peterburgskaya Vedomosti* states that Vladivostock has again been constituted a free port, an event which had long been desired. M. Protassieff, a Government financial expert, who has been sent on a mission to Vladivostock by the Viceroy, has just arrived in that town in order to decide the question whether it would be advisable to maintain Vladivostock and the Amur district as free port territory after the war, or whether the decision arrived at should be considered as having been taken only as applying to the period for which the war lasted. There exists much difference of opinion among the inhabitants of Vladivostock regarding the necessity of making the place a free port, or of re-establishing the customs system, and there are many favouring the latter course.

The engagement of Capt. Accury, of H.I.A.M.'s navy, and Miss D. von Meyeren has been formally announced. The marriage will take place at Tientsin in February, on the return of Capt. Accury from Home, where he is proceeding on service.

The Hon. J. M. Davidson, American Consul-General to Nanking, left Shanghai on September 24th by the C.N. steamer *Kiuling*. Mr. Davidson went to Nanking to relieve Mr. F. D. Cheshire, who has been transferred to Canton, where he takes Mr. McWade's place as Consul-General.

The statement, repeated by us, that China had protested against the Anglo-Tibetan Treaty, is now declared false. A Peking telegram to the *N.C. Daily News* says: The Waiwupu denounces officially the statement recently made on Russian authority, and declares that it has never protested against the Anglo-Tibetan Treaty. It appears, nevertheless that there was some strong objection raised at Peking.

Students who speak Japanese and are fairly well educated are being selected to go to Fengtien and assist the Japanese municipal arrangements in the various places they are controlling, everything being done through Chinese officials under Japanese direction. The Wai Wu Pu has wired to the Tartar General at Fen-tien to ask the Japanese not to institute their municipal governments in any of the cities taken, as the Chinese can govern themselves. The Japanese absolutely refuse to entertain the request.—*Peking Times*.

The difficulty of getting and keeping good servants is becoming a serious problem also in India, as locally. There are signs (it is said) which show that the most ruffianly and good-for-nothing servants belong to a sort of trades union, all the members of which support each other, so that if one is dismissed for no matter how grave a fault it becomes impossible to replace him. Quite lately the Council of the Imperial Anglo-Indian Association addressed the Government on the necessity of introducing a law into Calcutta regulating the relations between masters and servants, calling to notice the recent frequent boycotting of employers by servants.

It has been known for some weeks, says the *N.C. Daily News*, that Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson contemplated retirement from the onerous duties of Chief Justice of H. B. M. Supreme Court of China and Corea. The announcement is now made that Sir Hiram's resignation has been sent in to the proper quarters, but that it will not take effect until a successor is appointed. In the meantime a session of the Supreme Court will open, and on its completion in the course of the next few weeks Sir Hiram will go on circuit to Tientsin and to Hankow. The retiring Chief Justice has seen 40 years' continuous service in the East.

We have heard this good story before, but it will probably be fresh to many readers. It is about the Japanese when they purchased their first steamer. It was brought out from England by a British crew, and they had hardly arrived and taken up their moorings in Nagasaki Harbour, before they were boarded by the Japanese crew to take her over. They were as usual very polite, but they made it clearly understood that they wished to take a cruise on their own account without any foreign assistance. The British crew therefore went ashore, engineers and all. The Japanese immediately shipped their moorings, sounded the whistle in a cock-a-whoop style, and steamed out to sea. Everything worked splendidly, and the steering was beautiful to behold; after a short time they returned to harbour again. Then came the hitch,—when the captain signalled, "Ease her," "Stop her," and so on, those in charge of the engines down below could not find the necessary handles and levers to carry out his instructions. Consequently they ran over their moorings, nearly collided with some shipping, and finally had to sail round and round the harbour with the signal of distress flying, and blowing the whistle in anything but a cock-a-whoop manner, until the Scotch engineer who had brought the steamer out came off in a boat and showed them how to "Stop her." The Japanese had picked up their knowledge from somewhat out-of-date text books. They have improved considerably since then.

TRADE ITEMS.

It is reported in the North that the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. have sold the steamer *Fuping*.

Chinese bankers have been buying up Russian rouble notes around Yinkow and sending them to Shanghai, making considerable profit.

Sheng Kung-pao wishes to have the terminus of the Shanghai-Nanking railway at Woosung, while the British Minister desires to make Shanghai the terminus.

This comment, taken from the *N.C. Daily News*, refers to the Dallas Horse Repository Co., Ltd. "It speaks well for the amiable way things are going when the secretary of a company is permitted at its annual meeting to propose the re-election of his auditor, and the legal adviser sits by without tu ning a hair."

The Peking Board of Commerce report the founding of a glassware company by wealthy Chinese at Soochow. The company has been formed with a capital of Tls. 500,000 with the idea of protecting the industry in China, the imports from European countries being on the increase yearly.

Sanction has been obtained by wealthy merchants, from the Board of Commerce to establish a large commercial and industrial institution at Kirin Fu, which is the capital of the province of Kirin. The institution will comprise wool, cloth, cotton goods, soap and sugar factories, and the capital is to be Tls. 300,000 divided into 3,000 shares of Tls. 100.

Butterfield and Swire's steamer *Shasi* now plies on the river Shan between Hankow and Shantun, but there being no suitable wharf the Company bought land near Chinchia wharf outside the west gate of Changsha to build a wharf. The matter has been settled through the British Consul at Hankow and the Customs Taotai at Changsha.—*Universal Gazette*.

The new Java-China-Japan Line, subsidised by the Dutch Government, and which constitutes a regular monthly service via Macassar, Soerabaya, Samarang, and Batavia, to Hongkong, Shanghai, Moji, Kobe, Yokohama, and Amoy, is imparting a considerable impetus to the export trade of the Dutch Indies.—*Fairplay*.

A German message says that the report that the British Government has forbidden the sale of coal to Russia is contradicted by the fact that not only have already large quantities of English coal been sold to Japan and Russia, but the delivery to Russia is still continued at Cardiff. British, French and Norwegian, as well as German steamers, have a share in the freight. Some Liverpool coal-steamers are at present on their way to Hongkong.

The *Asahi* says that Japanese experiments with Chinese cotton have proved successful. Only 17 years ago not a single bale of Chinese cotton was imported into Japan for spinning purposes, but now the imports of Chinese cotton stand at the ratio of about 50 bales against 90 of Indian produce. The quality being equal, the advantage of drawing the supply from China is obvious, and the *Asahi* entertains the hope of a very bright future for the cotton industry in general.

The *China Review* having stated suggestively that the Yokohama Specie Bank was discounting the Japanese war notes at 15 per cent., the Tientsin manager, Mr. S. K. Suzuki, contradicted it, and said: "The Japanese war note are redeemed by the Japanese authorities in Manchuria at par on demand, and are circulating freely in the interior as well as at Newchwang." The Editor of the pro-Russian journal has a good reply, naming a specific case and person. We may add that the *Tientsin Times* also reported the discount. What is truth?

The Shanghai branch of the Trade Marks Registration Bureau will be opened on the 23rd October, and the Shanghai Taotai has been notified by the Board of Commercial Affairs that the head office of the said Bureau in Peking will also be opened on the same day and the Shanghai branch should not fail to commence work on the same day. Taotai Yuen has already intimated the matter to Mr. Hobson, the Commissioner of Maritime Customs of Shanghai, and attached one of the writers of the Yamen, who was in charge of the matter, to the Commissioner of Customs to deal with it.

The Tientsin Review thinks it will occasion some surprise to learn that the Yokohama Specie Bank in Tientsin charges a discount of 15 per cent. on the Japanese paper money issued for use in Manchuria!

The Tientsin Review remarks: "Again some of our too greedy contrabandists have been caught trying to smuggle arms, and the last consignment of some 50 revolvers belonging to a well-known German speculator were captured and confiscated on the s.s. *Knivsberg*."

The Austro-Hungarian Consul at Manila reports that exporters will find a ready and good market there for cotton and linen goods, black woollen hosiery, white underwear, dress goods (half woollens for trousers), towels, leather, glassware (tumblers, liqueur glasses, vases, &c.), smokers' articles, and bone buttons.

Captain Blanchard has returned to Tien'sin from Newchwang with the steam tug and lighter belonging to the Taku Tug and Lighter Company, which he took to the Liao River some time ago, laden with about 400 tons of timber and iron to be used in the construction of the new stores and godowns now being erected by Messrs. Bush Bros. at Newchwang. He coasted up the west side of the Gulf of Pechili and met with no adventures en route.

The Japanese Consul at Yingkow has telegraphically informed his Hongkong colleague, who in turn advised the Colonial Secretary, to the effect that ships or vessels arriving in Yingkow from Hongkong, Canton and Swatow are no longer subject to quarantine from the 30th September last, the above mentioned ports being declared to be no longer infected with contagious disease; but the prohibition of importation of rags, waste-paper, hair, earth and manure is still enforced.

Mr. James Mitchell, who has been trading in Shanghai, with offices in Hankow Road, as a commission agent, has mysteriously disappeared together with his compradore. He was last seen a week ago at the St. George's Farm, Bubbling Well, where it was noticed that his behaviour was somewhat strange, and he was very reckless with his money. Earlier in the same day he had been seen at the Hotel des Colonies, in company with his compradore, who paid over to him there a considerable sum in coin and in notes. All enquiries on the part of Mitchell's friends and the police have failed to discover him, and there are fears, says the Shanghai Daily News, that he may have met with foul play. A warrant for the arrest of both men has been issued through the British Court.

Prince Ching as president of the Wai Wu Pu has memorialized regarding the working of a copper mine in Anhui by Sir John Lister Kaye. The Prince says in February of the present year he received a communication from the British Minister, together with a copy of the draft agreement between the former governor of Anhui and Sir John, as to the exploration and working of mines at various places. Now Sir John will relinquish five of the places and will only work a copper mine at one place, asking the Board in return to give him permission to work the mine for a period of 100 years with an area of 30 li under ground. The Board after discussion has granted 60 years, limited to 20 li under ground, though the term may be extended by not more than 25 years by mutual consent after the expiration of the agreement, which is concluded on the basis of the new mining regulations.

The president of the Chinese Board of Commerce suggests the appointment of the directors or superintendents of commercial affairs in the various provinces as commercial delegates of the Board, so that they may exert themselves on behalf of the Chinese merchants and the Empire, the promotion of commerce being necessary to save China from poverty and dismemberment by the greedy foreign Powers. Unless something is soon done for its salvation it will be too late, because the country will gradually be drained of its silver, not only by the various old and new war indemnities and loans, but by its want of trade. The delegates will be commanded to consult the leading merchants as to the establishment of chambers of commerce, and the sending of youths abroad to study modern commercial methods. He believes in course of time, if under proper protection, Chinese merchants will be able to compete fairly with foreign merchants.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 28th September.—The following statistics, published under the direction of the Hankow General Chamber of Commerce were dated 28th Sept and include the following:—

Business reported since the 21st inst is as under:—

1904. 1903.

Settlements nil nil

Shipments to Shanghai on native account 9,724 nil

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 30th September, 1903.

1904. 1903.

Hankow Tea. 1-Cheste. 1-Cheste. Settlements 583,841 536,90

Shipments to Shanghai on native account 26,049 25,577

Stock 9,368 14,40

Arrivals 619,218 575,87 1904. 1903.

Kiukiang Tea. 1-Cheste. 1-Cheste. Settlements 193,538 190,692

Shipments to Shanghai on native account 18,037 13,017

Stock nil 793

Arrivals 213,575 204,492

The export to 23rd instant, as per customs returns stands thus:

Season 1904 to 19 43,589,484 lbs. 13,192,31 lbs.

Season 1903 to 1904 34,323,291 .. 12,717,588 ..

Season 1902 to 1903 36,941,319 .. 13,00,521 ..

Total. Total.

1904-5. 1903-4. 1902-3.

Via Shanghai. lbs. lbs. lbs.

To Great Britain 6,333,963 6,174,516 4,743,794

To United States and Canada 3,808,552 4,18,37 5,526,291

To Continent 4,274,171 1,884,331 1,584,68

To Russia in Europe 107,193 13,10,167 18,011 7,12

To do via North 20,658,903 11,183,576

To Shanghai 4,623,624 4,81,471 7,1,2,176

SILK.

CANTON, 10th September, 1904:—Fifth Crop.—The number of bales available for export is about the same as last year, i.e., 8,000 bales. The quality and colour are only little better than 4th crop. In the country the prime cost ruling for 5th crop is \$30 over our subjoined quotations. Long-reels.—During the first half of the fortnight prices continued to advance owing to the small stock on spot. Latterly enquiry has been less keen, and the market closes quiet, but dealers are still very strong in their demands. * The Natives "11/13-13/15-14/18" are ruling more and more over the market, notwithstanding unproportioned prices thereof. From sales made we quote: King Seng 11/13-13/15 at \$845; Han King shing 13/15 at \$785; Yee Wo Cheong 18/22 at \$720; Soey Wo Cheong 11/13-13/15-14/18 at \$750. Short-reels.—The demand has been growing from New York; but contracts for forward delivery have been booked only to a small extent, owing to the high prices asked by the Chinese. Many Filatures are giving up the Long-reels in order to spin short-reels, which are comparatively more profitable at the current quotations. Waste Silk.—Has attracted rather more attention from the European market, though only a little business has taken place. Country prices have become much firmer, especially for the best qualities.

* By "Natives" or "Market Cargo" we mean "Best 3me ordre" and "3me ordre."

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons, in their Silk Circular dated Shanghai 22nd September, state:—The same markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 11/74 and in Lyons at Fcs. 33 75. Raw Silk.—Business in Tsatsless has fallen off considerably in the last week. Gold Kiling has declined Tls. 7 1/2 per picul; but the rise in Exchange has increased the laying down cost at home. The market closes steady. Hand Filatures.—Further sales of Crack Chops for America are recorded. New Styles are neglected. Steam Filatures.—A fair number of settlements have taken place at moderate prices. Yellow Silk.—Very little doing. Waste Silk.—Business has been done in Rolled Waste at very high rates caused by short sellers covering—quality is much inferior to last year. 400 Pcls Honan 2 have been taken at 36 1/2; common Szechuen Frisoneets Pcls. 300 at 1ls. 32; Kading Frisoneets Pcls. 150 at 35. In Gum wastes, Curries etc., we do not hear of any business.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—The prices are going downward, market being weak.

Shekloong, No. 1, White \$8.30 to \$8.35 per cts.

Do. 2, White 7.40 to 7.45 "

Do. 1, Brown 5.95 to 6.00 "

Do. 2, Brown 5.85 to 5.90 "

Swatow, No. 1, White 8.30 to 8.35 "

Do. 2, White 7.35 to 7.40 "

Do. 1, Brown 5.75 to 5.80 "

Do. 2, Brown 5.55 to 5.60 "

Foochow Sugar Candy 12.40 to 12.45 "

Shekloong 10.45 to 10.50 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th Oct.—Good harvests are expected and the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary \$2.20 to \$2.30

Round, good quality 2.45 to 2.50

Long 3.65 to 3.70

Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.40 to 2.45

Garden, No. 1 3.40 to 3.45

White 3.90 to 4.95

Fine Cargo 4.05 to 4.10

SAIGON, 23rd September. Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co., of Saigon, in their latest Circular state:—The market is weaker at the close but still unreasonably high considering that there is hardly anything to be called a demand for any quarter. The weather has proved seasonable enough and planting is going on briskly. We quote for October/November delivery.

No. 2 White sif ed (trie) per picul.
steam milled (mixed)

No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (mixed) \$3.92

5 % Cargo steam milled (mixed) \$2.90

10 % " " " \$2.76

20 % " " " \$2.58

The following is a statement of this year's exports of White Rice, Cargo Rice and Paddy

Destination. Total Piculs.

Hongkong 2,178,000

Shanghai 18,000

Tonkin and Annam 500

Manila 1,481,800

Hoilo 280,000

Cebu 385,900

Japan 1,046,400

Corea 34,500

Singapore 99,600

Batavia 51,200

Passoeroan 113,400

Sourabaya 30,100

Samarang 32,600

India 300

Noumea 24,000

Madagascar 41,400

Reunion 223,100

Europe 2,663,400

Total 8,099,400

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 6th October, 1904.—We beg to continue our advices of the 22nd Ultimo, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian.

Stocks as per circular of 22nd October, 1904.

Sept. 23rd Imports per Malwa 719 2,914 1,391 2,208

Sept. 28th " C. Apear 446 172

Oct. 4th " Nau Sung 969 470

270 125

1,185 3,462 1,905 2,438

Less Exports to Shanghai 85 412 188

Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight 211 620 161 460

Estimated Stocks this day 889 2,430 1,646 1,978

Bengal.—The deliveries having improved there is a better feeling in the market which has been fairly active. Closing quotations are \$1,100 for Patna and \$1,067 for Benares.

Malwa.—There has been a good demand at the following prices:—

New \$1,070/1,110

2 years old \$1,140/1,160

3 " " \$1,180/1,200

4/5 " " \$1,260/1,208

Oldest \$1,300

Persian.—Prices for good quality are \$20/80.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—Quotations are:—

Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New \$1,100 to \$1,140 per picul.

Malwa Id \$1,180 to \$1,200 do.

Malwa Older \$1,260 to \$1,280 do.

Malwa V. Old \$1,300 to \$1,320 do.

Persian fine quality \$880 to — do.

Persian extra fine \$910 to — do.

Patna New \$1,100 to — per chest.

Patna Old \$ — to — do.

Benares New \$1,060 to — do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their coal report of to-day's date, state that five steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 13,000 tons of Japan coal and 6,000 tons of Welsh. Most has been sold. Since 22nd September 33,900 tons of Japan coal, and 8,000 tons of Hongkay have arrived all sold. The market is dull with small sales of Japanese. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....\$18.00 ex-ship.

Australian.....\$11.00 ex-ship.

Yubari Lump.....\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal

Miki Lump.....\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal

Moji Lump.....\$6.50 to 10.00 ex-ship, steady

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 7th Oct.:—No business to report; market quiet. Stock about 350 bales.

Bombay.....23.50 to 30.50 per pc.

Bengal (New), Rangoon } 30.50 to 33.00

and Dacca.....

Shanghai and Japanese, 33.00 to 34.00

Tungchow and Ningpo, 33.00 to 34.00

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, 7th October, says:—The fluctuations on the other side are reflected in our local market and the depression last reported has been more pronounced during the fortnight. Business continues to drag, high prices check consumption, and considering the season of the year sales effected are the shortest on record. Prices have further receded \$1 to \$2 per bale and are weak at the close. Holders are anxious sellers, and would submit to still greater concessions if any large quantity could be placed, but for anything beyond urgent requirements dealers will not offer at any price. Latest telegraphic advices from Bombay make that market weak and declining owing to greatly improved prospects of the New Cotton crop, consequent on timely rain in most of the cotton growing districts. We close dull and quiet with prices tending downwards.

Local Manufacture:—Nothing doing, the scarcity of the raw material curtailing production.

Japanese Yarn:—With the exception of a sale of 75 bales No. 16s at \$131 to \$131 no business is reported, the home markets being greatly excited.

Raw Cotton:—Sufficient rain has fallen in India to ensure an average cotton crop and prices in Bombay have dropped heavily in sympathy with the American markets. Locally there has been nothing doing in Bengal descriptions. Unsold stock about 300 bales. The first importations of new Bengals may be expected in about 3 to 4 weeks. A drop of \$1 per picul in rates has induced some business in New China cotton and sales of 500 bales (small) have been reported at \$32. Quotations are Indian \$28 to \$32 and China \$30 to \$33.

Exchange on India after slight fluctuations closes to-day at Rs. 136½ for T/T and Rs. 136½ for post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 90½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 23rd instant, vi:—

India:—Total sales 6,000 bales, comprising 950 bales of No. 10s, 1,600 bales of No. 12s, 195 bales of No. 16s, and 4,695 bales of No. 20s, prices showing a decline of fully two taels and market closing weak. Estimated unsold stock about 35,000 bales.

Japanese:—Considering the decline in Indian spinning these threads are keeping very steady and sales of 2,000 bales are reported on the basis of Tls. 92 to 101½ for No. 16s and Tls. 100 to 103½ for No. 20s market closing strong.

Local:—With slightly easier prices for raw cotton nearly 11,000 bales have changed hands on the basis of Tls. 88½ for No. 10s, Tls. 90½ for No. 12s, Tls. 91½ to 93½ for No. 14s, and Tls. 93½ to 95 for No. 16s, closing firm.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai 29th September, states:—In the Annual Report on the Trade of Chefoo for 1903, the Commissioner of Customs there remarks, although the year under review shows a record volume of trade, that in Foreign imports marks a decline, and this is attributed partly to the opening of the Tsingtao-Chi-nan-fu Railway. Imports from Foreign countries direct, chiefly Japan, show a slight increase, but from China ports—Shanghai almost exclusively—a decline. Grey and White Plain Shirtings aggregate a total of 317,595 pieces, against 425,043 pieces imported during 1902. T-Cloths, of which 149,635 pieces arrived, show an unchanged demand. Sheetings of all kinds fell from 644,257 to 570,745 pieces, the American, English and Indian makes having all lost in popularity, while the supply of the Japanese variety was more than double that of

the previous year. Drills declined by 21,500 pieces those of Japanese manufacture being the only kind to show an advance. Jeans improved from 35,777 to 40,058 pieces, the English and American weavings sharing the increase about equally between them, while a small consignment of Dutch Jeans, the first for many years, is to be noted. The demand for the Printed and Fancy Cottons and for Cotton Flannel shows a steady advance. Cotton Yarn is said to have been supplied to a considerable portion of this province via Tsingtao, but since the arrivals of yarn of all kinds amounted during the past year to 147,812 piculs, a good average import, the new method of distribution has evidently not yet seriously diverted this trade from Chefoo. There is yet time therefore for local capitalists to heed the writing on the wall and, before it is too late, set about building the railway so strongly advised in the last Annual Report. English and Indian spinnings continue their downward course, giving way to Japanese Twist, which reached the high figure of 122,731 piculs, against 107,043 piculs in the previous 12 months. Woollen Goods and Metals both show a slight decline as compared with the figures of 1902. Piece Goods.—Interrupted by two Bank holidays, including the Chinese settling day, when Exchange quotations were not available, our market has not had much opportunity of showing what it can do during the interval. A revival in the enquiry for New-chwang is noticeable and fair quantities of Piece Goods and Yarn have already been shipped in that port. Renewed orders from the Japanese Government have also to be noticed, but any transactions that have gone through have been almost entirely with second hands, importers themselves at present holding very little cargo, and what they have to arrive has already been sold, the exceptions being very few. It is reported the Japanese have exploited the Tientsin market as well, for American goods and are supposed to have taken some 4 to 5,000 bales for shipment further North. It is a mystery not yet solved as to what these purchases of Cotton goods are intended for. Trade with Tientsin remains very quiet, though some enquiry has sprung up for Yarns, in which Chefoo has also figured to a small extent. The River trade, which is practically dominated by Hankow, is not very brisk; clearances thence keep up fairly well, but fresh orders come forward very slowly. The re-exports of dyed goods, however, during the last two months have been really remarkable, especially to Hankow, and being articles of luxury may be taken as a sure sign of prosperity in spite of all the pessimistic views that are expressed about the trade. The natives continue to hold very sanguine ideas about the future and are, apparently, not yet satisfied with what has already been bought for the Spring trade. It makes one almost shudder to think what the effect would be here in the event of two or three substantial Russian victories and a dear money market, as was suggested by an importer recently! However, there are few here who seem to entertain any doubt about the result, and amongst the natives especially so. The home markets, despite the drop in Cotton, are very strong, for the reason that the forward business with which they are full up, is all based on the intrinsically lower prices of "Futures." Constant telegraphic enquires are kept up with Mancester as to what can be done, but unless some of the less known makes on this market are taken it is impossible to buy anything for shipment much before next March or April. In some cases even so far off as August has been accepted. Cotton in Liverpool has come down with a run to a 5.24d. for Mid-American, but is firmer for Egyptian 7½d. The export for the last two weeks is 20,000,000 yards so supplies are beginning to come on in earnest. The New York market is strong and unbending as regards domestics, but a fairly large quantity of Cotton Flannels has again been booked for distant delivery. The revival of the enquiry for New-chwang has put life into our market for Yarn and a fairly heavy week's buying has resulted.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN per bale

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ... 136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 5,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS per piece

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs. 2.45 to 2.50
8.4 lbs. 3.20 to 4.10
9 to 10 lbs. ... 4.10 to 5.50

COTTON PIECE GOODS per piece

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.90 to 3.10
58 to 60 " 3.20 to 3.75
64 to 66 " 4.00 to 5.50
Fine 6.20 to 8.25
Book-folds 5.50 to 8.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.80 to 1.10
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.25 to 2.50
7lbs. (32 "), " 2.75 to 3.00
8lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 2.25 to 2.75
7lbs. (32 "), " 3.00 to 3.25
8 to 8.4 ozs. (36 in.) 3.20 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½" 5.25 to 8.00
to 14 lbs.)

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to } 1.80 to 3.90

8 lbs.) per yard

Brocades—Dyed 0.18 to 0.14

Damasks — to —

Chintzes—Assorted 0.09 to 0.17

Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.23 to 0.45

Velveteens—18 in. 0.21 to 0.27

per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.75

WOOLLENS per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.70 to 2.50

German 0.60 to 0.75

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.00 to 3.50

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 7th October, 1904.

Beans \$3 @ 4

Borax \$15 @ 16

Camphor (China) \$110 @ 115

(Formosa) \$120

Cassia (First quality) \$18

" (Second ") \$16

" Oil \$160 @ 170

Cloves \$20 @ 40

Fennel Seed Oil \$330 @ 340

Galangal \$3 @ 5

Glue \$1.5 @ 20

Grapes \$9 @ 13

Ivory \$200 @ 600

Kismiss \$10 @ 14

Olibanum \$8 @ 19

Rosa Oil \$60 @ 175

Saltpetre \$10 @ 11

Sandal wood \$5 @ 30

" Oil \$300 @ 400

Senna Leaves \$2 @ 6

Sugar Candy \$9 @ 11

Vermilion \$80 @ 85

Wax \$34 @ 37

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Tydeus*, for London, Amsterdam and Antwerp, sailed on 28th September.

For Suez:—200 cases cassia. For Port Said:—50 cases cassia. For Marseilles:—100 bales canes, 100 bales waste silk. For Odessa:—950 cases cassia, 34 bales galangal. For London:—1754 packages tea, 514 rolls mats and matting, 1,055 bales hemp, 21 bales chinaware, 3,245 bales preserves, 383 casks preserves, 94 packages canes, 47 cases bristles, 345 bales feathers, 102 casks soy, 22 cases sundries. For London or Glasgow:—1,158 cases preserves, 3,400 cases preserves. For London or Leith:—100 cases preserves. London or Continent:—108 cases canes, 107 cases bristles, 40 cases essential oil, 300 cases cassia, 199 bales cassia, 13 cases cantharides, 67 bales galangal. For Dundee:—99 cases preserves. For Rosario:—500 packages firecrackers. For Buenos Ayres:—475 packages tea. For Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Hamburg or London:—790 bales cassia. For Amsterdam:—200 casks preserves, 50 rolls matting. For Rotterdam:—199 bales hemp, 50 cases ginger, 15 kegs ginger. For Rotterdam or Amsterdam:—80 packages ginger. For Antwerp:—50 rolls matting. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—26 cases bristles.

Per steamer *Bayern*, sailed on 28th September.

For Colombo:—74 rolls matting. For Aden:—

750 bags sugar. For Naples:—190 half-chests tea. For Genoa:—200 bales waste silk, 124 bales raw silk. For Antwerp:—200 cases cassia, 100 bales bamboo scraps, 100 bales feathers, 30 cases preserves, 7 bales blackwoodware, 3 cases tea.

For Antwerp or Hamburg:—20 cases bristles, 6 bales feathers. For Antwerp, Hamburg or London:—10 cases bristles. For Bremen:—149 half-chests tea, 140 rolls mats, 10 cases ginger, 4 cases sundries, 3 cases effects, 2 cases curios, 1 roll matting. For Bremen or Hamburg:—100 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—521 bales feathers, 228 bales cane, 180 half-chests tea, 100 casks preserves, 15 cases bristles, 12 cases blackwoodware, 12 cases ginger, 10 rolls matting, 5 cases feathers, 1 case silk, 1 case paper boxes. For Hamburg or London:—250 cases cassia, 500 bales cassia. For Copenhagen:—50 cases cassia.

Per M. M. steamer *Australien*, sailed on 4th October. For Marseilles:—186 bales raw silk, 50 bales raw silk, 15 cases silk piece goods, 125 cases cassia, 28 bales human hair, 101 cases tea, 20 cases ylang ylang oil, 73 cases champagne, 39 packages provisions, 4 cases hats, 10 cases sundries. For Lyons:—229 bales raw silk, 3 cases silk piece goods. For London:—1 package feathers.

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

OCTOBER 4TH, 1904. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Custom House from 17th September to 23rd September, 1904:—

IMPORTS.

GOODS. QUANTITY

Cotton Raw, Indian	pls.
" Native	"
" Yarn	2,018
Shirtings, Grey	1,083
T-Cloths	" 361
Shirtings, White	" 3
T. Red Shirtings	" 2
Drills	" 42
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades	" 1
Damasks	" 199
Camlets	" 7
Lasting	" 1
Spanish Stripes	yds.
Lustres, Figured	"
Lead, in plgs	pls.
Tin, in slabs	"
Iron, Nail rod	" 23
Quicksilver	" 209
Iron, Old	" 10
Ironwire	" 11,260
Rice	" 1
Opium, Patna	" 42
" Benares	" 28
" Persia	" 1
" Malwa	" 61
" Szechuan	" 91
" Yunnan	" 1
" Kiangsu	" 467
Sesamum Seed	"
Sapanwood	"
Sandalwood	"
Rattans	" 12
Wheat	" 5,500
Flour	" 2,250
Beancake	" 27,800
Beans and Peas	" 30,381
Bicho de Mar	" 113
Mats Tea	pcs. 36,000
Oil, Kerosine American	gals. 20,000
" Borneo in bulk	" 10,000
" Bumrah	" 133,145
Coal	tons.
Tobacco Leaf	pls. 2,088
Vermicelli	" 729

EXPORTS

GOODS. QUANTITY

Sugar, White	pls.
" Brown	"
" Candy	494
Hemp Bags	pcs. 4,000
" Sacking	"
Paper I quality	pls. 1,067
" II	216
Tobacco, Prepared	" 377
Kittysols (umbrellas)	pcs. 1,200

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 7th October.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	230
Credits 4 months' sight	233 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	187
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	136 1/2
Bank, on demand	136 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	136 1/2
Bank, on demand	136 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand 89 1/2

ON MANILA.—	
On demand—Pesos	90
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	5 1/2 p.c. p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	110 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c. p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c. p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	6 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.85
GOLD LEAF, 130 fine, per tael	\$57.00
GAU SILVER, per oz.	26 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th October, 1904.—During the past week a fair general business, mostly at gradually improving rates, has again been transacted, whilst in China Sugars and Indos a further substantial advance has been established, the market closing however for both these stocks somewhat easier, and at slightly lower than the highest rates realized.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have again been booked at \$650 and close in demand at this figure. London is unchanged at £67. Nationals are now procurable at \$39 after small sales at \$39 1/2 and \$40.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved to \$610, at which rate shares are still in request. China Traders are still in the market at \$6. North Chinas have advanced to Tls. 75, and Yangtze to \$145, both closing in request. Cantons have been booked at \$257 1/2 and \$260, no shares being now obtainable under \$265.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at the improved rate of \$335. Binas have again changed ownership at \$87, and more shares are wanted.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos are somewhat firmer at \$29 buyers, but shares are procurable at \$30. Indo-Chinas sold at rapidly advancing rates up to \$133 cash and \$136 December, but have since reacted to \$131 cash, at which a few shares are said to be procurable. The closing quotation in Shanghai is wired at Tls. 93 cash. Do glasses are firmer with sales and further buyers at \$32. China and Mausas and Star Ferries are unchanged with sellers at quotations. Shell Transports are on offer at 25/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars opening in strong demand rose rapidly to \$246 cash, and \$250 and \$25 December, but have since reacted and close with sales and probable sellers at \$243 cash and \$248 December. Luzons can be placed to a small extent at \$6.

MINING.—Raubs have been placed and are still enquired for at \$6.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa are firmer with sales and buyers at \$225. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have again been booked at \$113 and continue in request. New Amoy Docks are neglected at \$27 1/2 sellers. Farnham Boyds after local sales at Tls. 181 and Tls. 180 have receded to Tls. 176 with probable sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have steadily declined and are now procurable at \$149. Kowloon Lands have been booked at \$39. West Points are easier with sellers at \$60. Humphreys Estates are in request at \$12 1/2 (old) and \$5 (new). Shanghai Lands can be disposed of locally at Tls. 112. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$136 and \$137, closing steady at the latter rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Unchanged, and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements continue in request at \$31, and China Borneos at \$11. A. S. Watsons (ordinaries) ex the new issue, are procurable at \$19 1/2, and the new issue at \$3. Ices are in the market at \$25 1/2, and Tramways at \$300. Steam Waterboats have been booked at \$23 and \$22, and more shares are wanted at the latter quotation. Campbell Moores are in request at \$4 1/2 and China Providents at \$9 1/2. Alhambra Tobaccos have dropped to \$100 sellers.

MEMOS.—Union Insurance Society's ordinary yearly meeting on the 20th instant; transfer books close from the 10th to 20th instant inclusive. Canton Insurance Office ordinary yearly meeting on the 21st instant. Transfer books close to-day until the 21st instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Sh'hai	\$125	£650, buyers £67
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$89, sellers
B. Shares	28	\$89, sellers
Foun. Shares	21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$610, sales & buy.
China Traders	\$25	\$61
North China	25	Tls. 75, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$145 buyers
Canton	\$50	\$265
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$87, sales & buyers
Steamship Cos.—		
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$29 buyers
Indo-China S. N...	£10	£131, sellers
China and Manila...	\$50	\$264, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$32, sales & buyers
Star Ferry	10	£1, seller.
Shell Transport and	21	25/- sellers
Trading Co.	210	£8. 10s.
Do. pref. shares	210	£8. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$243
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$6, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18. 10d.	\$6, buyers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$225, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	£118, buyers
New Amoy Dock	61	£271, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 176
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$149
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39, sales
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$137, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$24	£5
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 112, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 30, sellers
International	75	Tls. 25
Laou Kung Mow	100	Tls. 32 1/2
Soychee	500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	10	\$11 1/2, sellers
Green Island Cement	10	\$31, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd	12	\$11, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S...	10	£13, ex new sel.
Hongkong Electric	10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	10	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Rope	50	\$140, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	25	\$47, sellers
Hongkong Ice	25	\$250
H. H. L. Tramways...	100	\$300
Hk. Steam Water-boat Co., Ltd.	10	\$22, buyers
Dairy Farm	8	\$22, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$40, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12/6	£5 1/2, sales & buyers
United Asbestos	4	\$94, buyers
Do...	10	\$180
Tebrau Planting Co.	5	\$1
China Prov. L. & M...	10	\$94, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	10	\$94, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	10	\$10, sales
Powell, Ltd.	10	\$11.75, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	50	\$50
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	£100, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	10	\$94, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	5	\$7, sellers
S. C. Morning Post	25	\$3 1/2, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., of Shanghai, in their Share Report dated 30th September, 1904, state:—The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival occurring on the 24th and 26th interfered with business, the exchange being closed during these days. The principal feature during the week has been the extraordinary meeting of S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. At this meeting the directors were empowered to proceed with the sale of the company's assets to a syndicate or company in London, on the terms proposed; these being the present shareholders to receive £12 10s. in cash and sixteen £1 shares in exchange for the present share in the company. Holders of this stock anticipated

that the result of the meeting would cause a considerable upward tendency in shares, but in this they were disappointed. To-day is settling day and shares have fallen from 182 for cash to 176. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/6^{1/2}. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. These are offering in Hongkong at \$650. The latest London quotation is £86. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—A considerable business has been done in Indo-Chinas. The market opened on the 23rd with sales for September at Tls. 88 and rose steadily to Tls. 90^{1/2}. At closing rates are slightly easier and sales for September were effected yesterday at Tls. 89^{1/2} and 88^{1/2}, with sales for December at 91 and 92, and for January at Tls. 90. Shell Line shares have been placed at £1. 5s. bearer scrip. Tugs preferred shares have been placed at Tls. 44. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. The market opened on 23rd with sales at Tls. 179 cash, and 185, 187, 187^{1/2} and 188 December. On the 27th September shares were placed at 182^{1/2} with sales for December at 187^{1/2}, 188^{1/2} and 190 and for January at 190. On the 28th cash shares were placed at Tls. 181, 180 and 176 September, 184^{1/2} November, 185 and 187^{1/2} December. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have been placed at Tls. 170 and 172^{1/2} March, and 160 cash. Yangtze Wharf and Godowns were placed at Tls. 189. Sugar Cos.—No business reported. Mining.—The only transaction reported is in Kaipings London scrip at Tls. 6.30. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 112. Industrial.—No business reported in cotton stocks. Shanghai Gas shares have been placed at Tls. 100, and Shanghai Paper and Pulps at Tls. 155 cash, 160 September and 162^{1/2} January. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkat.—Business in this stock has been quiet during the past week, but sales have been effected at Tls. 302^{1/2}, 305^{1/2} and 300, and 301^{1/2} for to-day's settlement, and for December at Tls. 317^{1/2}. Sumatras have been placed for cash at Tls. 65 and for October at 67^{1/2}. Stores and Hotels.—Hotel des colonies have been placed at Tls. 22, and 21 for December and also for cash at the latter rate. Astor House Hotels have been placed at \$27. Weeks at \$19. Hall and Holtz at \$31. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Horse Bazaars have been placed at Tls. 100. Loans.—Astor House 8 per cent debentures have been placed at Tls. 104 and Peraks 6 per cent at 97^{1/2}.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—Market remains about the same as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul last; to Japan, 50 cents nominal; to Philippines, 35 cents; to Java, 32 and 35 cents per picul according to size. Java to Hongkong, 35 cents for wet and/or dry sugar; to Japan, 37^{1/2} cents and 41 cents. Newchwang to Hongkong, no inquiry. Coal freights are firm. Moji to this, \$2.20 last; to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Germania—German steamer, 1,714 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2. 0 per ton.

An Indo-China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Kobe, 50 cents, option Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 704 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Metzarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Shahzada—British steamer, 1,046 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

Wuhu—British steamer, 1,227 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (36,000 picul's), 35 cents per picul.

Suisang—British steamer, 1,776 tons, Saigon to one or two ports north coast Java, 32 cents per picul.

Viking—Norwegian steamer, 914 tons, hence to Kobe, \$7,750 in full.

Orange—Norwegian steamer, 1,001 tons, monthly, 4 months, at \$7,500 per month.

Emma Lingken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$7,250 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—ARRIVALS.

2, Carl Menzell, German str., from Hongay.
2, Numantia, German str., from Kobe.
2, Stettin, British str., from Singapore.
3, Agincourt, British str., from Hainan Island.
3, Australien, French str., from Yokohama.
3, Hailoong, British str., from Hainan Island.
3, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
3, Indrawadi, British str., from Manila.
3, Madura, British str., from Kutchinotzu.

3, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
3, Nanshan, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
3, Oscar II, Norwegian str., from Moji.
3, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
3, Sagami, British str., from Yokohama.
3, Shansi, British str., from Canton.
3, Suisang, British str., from Samarang.
3, Tremont, American str., from Manila.
3, Ulysses, British str., from Liverpool.
3, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Auchenarden, British str., from Moji.
4, Giang Tee, British str., from Samarang.
4, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
4, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
4, Mauchuria, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
4, S. V. Langkat, Dut. str., from Bulek Papan.
4, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
4, Yochow, British str., from Canton.
5, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
5, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
5, Lyee moon, German str., from Shanghai.
5, Mathilde, German str., from Heihow.
5, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
5, Scandia, German str., from Keelung.
5, Sealda, British str., from Rangoon.
5, Woang, British str., from Chefoo.
6, Bainbridge, U.S. t.-b., from Shanghai.
6, Barry, U.S. torpedo-boat, from Shanghai.
6, Chauncey, U.S. t.-b., from Shanghai.
6, Chibli, British str., from Swatow.
6, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
6, Dale, U.S. torpedo-boat, from Shanghai.
6, D'egateur, U.S. t.-b., from Shanghai.
6, Heimdal, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
6, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
6, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
6, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
6, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.

October—DEPARTURES.

3, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
3, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
3, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
3, Sirius, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
3, Wuhu, British str., for Saigon.
3, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
4, Australien, French str., for Europe.
4, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
4, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
4, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
4, Kinkiang, British str., for Chefoo.
4, Kobsi-hang, German str., for Bangkok.
4, Numan'ia, German str., for Moji.
4, Sagami, British str., for Manila.
4, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
5, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
5, Chunsang, British str., for Saigon.
5, Hailoong, British str., for Hainan Island.
5, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
5, Indrawadi, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
5, Lyee moon, German str., for Canton.
5, Promise, British str., for Bangkok.
5, Providence, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
5, Purnea, British str., for Amoy.
5, Sealda, British str., for Yokohama.
5, Shansi, British str., for Saigon.
5, Taming, British str., for Manila.
5, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
5, Viking, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
5, Yochow, British str., for Saigon.
6, Clavering, British str., for Salina Cruz.
6, Emma Luyken, German str., for Saigon.
6, Onda, British str., for Singapore.
6, Oscar II, Norwegian str., for Moji.
6, Stettin, British str., for Swatow.
6, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Woosang, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Laertes, from Saigon, Messrs. Antonio Tozno and Berthez.

Per Borneo, from Sandakan, Capt. Ward, Lieuts. Gaskell and Cooper.

Per Kwangtah, from Shanghai, Messrs. Deltor, B. Ur Tomsen, a. d. Miller.

Per Choyang, from Shanghai, Messrs. Marnham, Sinclair, and Hyde.

Per Purnea, from Singapore, Messrs. Cary, Thomas, and Vass.

Per Taiyuan, from Melbourne, &c., Mrs. Glendinning, Mrs. Gibson and 2 children, Drs. Hawley, Hoggan, Sleeman, and Knaggs, Messrs. Briggs, Hordern, Hemans, Nicholle, Portens, Davies, Mead, Glanville, Elliott, Wardell, Nelson, and Simmonds; from Manila, Messrs. Armstrong, Reyes, and Newman.

Per Rubi, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. G. Abella, Mrs. Baggaridge and infant, Miss F. Jones, Messrs. Manuel Asencio, Rafael Machuca, S. Velasco, Go Checo, P. P. Go Checo, V. N. Somosa, Primitivo Cuajunco, B. H. Macke, C. Francke, C. S. Downs, and Patten Lee.

Per Australien, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. Lebo, Mr. and Mrs. R. Parry, Messrs. Cunningham, John Ling, Matapahim, and Muira; from Shanghai, Consul and Mrs. Kahn, Mrs. Rosalie Branat, Mrs. Eugenie Sport, Messrs. Pollock, A. Earleigh, Bardy, Dorsey, Jacquemart, Nekas Hagegorgeon, B. Gertmain, Manuel Jaim, and Filippini; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mrs. Durand, Messrs. C. Smith, J. Laistin, Le Taquin, Le Roy, Carl Balsertin, and Cristian Nansen; for Singapore, from Kobe, Messrs. Kaidzu, Inou, Ishiro, Nigashi, Ishiro, Irasawa, Fomita, Yoe, Meyer, Philip, and Smith; from Shangai, Mrs. J. Goldstein, Mr. and Mrs. Grunberger, Messrs. Darneol and O. Hanisch, for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. Aramian; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Lutinger, Messrs. Myer, Barker, H. Gilstein, A. A. Cox, and J. Triplett; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Messrs. R. P. Santone and Matteofraggi; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mrs. Klinge and infant; Messrs. Decleva, Rann, Techene, Ma Rheeja, Raheja, and Gorai; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Weil and 3 children, Mrs. Okerman, Mrs. Backe, Miss Orye Tie, Messrs. Jacksou, Cilver, Darling, Colsen, Wilcox, Johnson, Cooper, Hansen, Williamson, Hodden, Jose da Costa, Jacksen, Pettersen, Wetter, Ryberg, Pedersen, Salmons, Antonsen, Ros, Johnsen, Sentsonn, Santos, and Juga; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Bernheim and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Griffenberg, Messrs. Varenne, Georges, Dourer, Perier, L. A. L. F. Freire, Choffet, Ralier, Boyer, Chauvin, Le Goff, Martin, Le Gall, Soubigon, Corre, Lochouarn, and Antonio da Costa.

Per Manchuria, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ballantine, Misses Blanche, Agnes and Janet Ballantine, Master John Ballantine, Mrs. H. A. Burke, Misses Rosa and Maria Burke, Master Harry Burke, Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Dunlap, Miss Fannie C. Marti, and Mr. Jose de Loysaga y Ageo; from Honolulu, Messrs. Frederick M. Bechtel and Geo. Stuebner; from Yokohama, Mrs. Elizabeth Watson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bock, Lieut. N. W. Benton, Messrs. Tom Petrie and Walter H. Watson; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Blanche M. Barrett and Mr. Arthur P. Barrett; from Manila, Mrs. Bertha Smith, Mrs. L. Barrett, Mrs. Botelho, Mrs. P. Botelho and infant, Mrs. R. A. Liggs, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Carman, Miss Helen Carman, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Daniels; Miss B. M. Stanford, Lieut. G. C. Sweet, Capt. A. C. Baker, Messrs. Geo. R. Smith, A. W. Baum, J. L. Barrett, Allen P. Nichols, E. Piuz-dengelos, Vicente Reyes, C. E. Jones, J. M. Bayet, and A. A. H. Botelho.

Per Coromandel, for Hongkong, from London, Lieut. W. G. Westmor, Messrs. G. F. Story and R. D. Atkinson, Asst. Paymaster F. F. O'Bryan, Messrs. C. F. Dixon and J. R. Knight; from Marseilles, Mr. Hamberg, Major H. de T. Phillips, Mr. W. Mathews, Lieut. M. B. Stroyer, Messrs. A. Lechler and O. Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. le Sauvage; from Singapore, Mr. C. Krovig, Dr. S. L. Yin, Messrs. P. Roza and S. C. Halleen; for Shanghai, from London, Miss O. Curry, Messrs. J. H. Roberts, F. C. Flack, D. Peebles, and J. Logan; from Marseilles, Messrs. Crislett, F. Peebles, Levy, Bearrique, Roger, Holland, V. Dirica, G. Dirica, and G. Fromont; from Port Said, Mrs. and Miss Margarette, Miss Le Vira and Gauthier, and Mr. R. Magre; from Bombay, Messrs. S. B. Tolati and Joichi Yokoi; from Singapore, Miss B. and L. Rossman, Messrs. H. Lund, Folkstad, Mr. and Mrs. Gellino and child.

DEPARTED.

Per Yuensang, for Manila, Miss L. Ross, Messrs. F. E. Clute, J. B. Weirich, and J. Nubuhr.

Per Australien, for Saigon, Messrs. S. Schwartz, Tanger, Thuis, and Sister Maria; for Singapore, Mrs. F. Bedford and Mr. M. Pedersen; for Batavia, Mr. P. F. Bayes; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. A. Vandastar, Mr. and Mrs. Frangene, Miss de Champeaux, Messrs. G. de Champeaux, Meracki, and C. Robton.

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